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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Peace Process, Regional Affairs

NC0603160593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1252 GMT 6 Mar 93

["Exclusive" interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by a radio correspondent whom 'Arafat refers to as "Ghazi"; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ghazi] Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]: Following Christopher's tour, some say he has gone home carrying a precious prize, while others say exactly the opposite. What do you say, Abu-'Ammar?

['Arafat] We would have wished him to return home with a precious prize to give impetus to the peace process. But unfortunately, the Israeli mentality has not changed. Actually, it has grown more arrogant under the new U.S. Administration.

[Ghazi] You mean there is no change in the U.S. mentality and U.S. Administration?

['Arafat] No, I am saying that Israel has grown more arrogant. In the discussion between our delegation in Jerusalem and Christopher, we were offered a six-point plan to promote the peace process. But unfortunately, after being asked to give our approval, and my personal approval at the request of Secretary Christopher, and after being informed that [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Rabin had approved it and that he was just waiting for president Yasir 'Arafat's approval, we sent our initial approval at 0100 in the morning, to be followed by our final approval following the meeting of the Palestinian leadership. Christopher was relieved to receive this response from us. At 0700 the next day, we were informed that the Israelis had backed down on all they had agreed to earlier. What is more serious is that the point mentioned in the first document, or first message, was not mentioned in the second message; that is, they were backing down on Jerusalem. This prompted me to call for meetings of the Arab League—since it had been agreed from the time the deportees issue came into existence to keep the League in open session—the cordon states [Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the PLO, and Egypt], the Islamic Conference Organization, the Jerusalem Committee, and the Palestine Committee of the Nonaligned Movement.

[Ghazi] Do you believe it was trick by Israel?

['Arafat] (?Of course.)

[Ghazi] What is the U.S. position on this?

['Arafat] The U.S. position, unfortunately, favors Israel. Furthermore, the lack of courteousness and the disregard for protocol was such that one of the members of the U.S. delegation accompanying Christopher, Martin Indyk—who represents AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] and who as an AIPAC candidate was accepted into the U.S. Administration's State Department and National Security Council—insulted the PLO, its chairman and leadership, and branded it as terrorist. So far, no apology or explanation has been given in this regard by the U.S. Administration.

[Ghazi] What is the new U.S. Administration's position? This is its first move on the peace negotiations.

['Arafat] The peace talks are the U.S. Administration's chief concern. We cannot go back to the talks while they rub the question of Jerusalem in our noses, not to mention the deportees.

[Ghazi] You are concentrating on the issue of Jerusalem, which, undoubtedly, is a basic problem. But all of us...

['Arafat, interrupting] As far as I am concerned, the problem of the deportees is very important. All our moves were (?for the sake) of the deportees. But when they [not further identified] rub the problem of Jerusalem in our noses, then we give it the utmost priority.

[Ghazi] There is no doubt about it. But some say that the U.S.-Israeli deal on the deportees, which followed Security Council Resolution 799, was the result of a soft Palestinian position at the United Nations.

['Arafat] What [words indistinct]?

[Ghazi] This was said and published in the mass media.

['Arafat] Those who say this are unconscientious. It is nothing but a political jab at the PLO. It was the PLO that acted for the sake of the deportees. No one else acted on behalf of them; no one. I challenge any party to claim it made as great moves as the PLO. If some Arab or international parties are trying to jump on the bandwagon of the deportees, then this is not the first time, and it will not be the last.

[Ghazi] But even the PLO actions...

['Arafat, interrupting] It is the PLO that wrested the Security Council resolution. I personally asked our representative to work for it, and my colleague at the PLO Executive Committee, brother Shafiq [al-Hut, PLO representative in Lebanon], to close the crossing points to the deportees. I was the one who asked Lebanon to close the crossing points.

[Ghazi] Despite this position, some say that Abu-'Ammar and the PLO are not annoyed by the deportees problem, because it involves a number of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists at a time when you are heading toward elections, etc. Excluding this cadre from the elections, they say....

['Arafat, interrupting] I would like to tell you something, Ghazi. Please do not try to provoke me [words indistinct]....

[Ghazi, interrupting] This is journalism, Abu-'Ammar.

['Arafat] I am telling you: Elections have been held in 34 locations in the occupied territories. They involved unions, associations, chambers of commerce, Red Crescent societies, doctors, lawyers, workers, students, engineers, peasants, agricultural engineers, and so on. The PLO won 29 of the 34 elections. In another poll held by international and Israeli institutions the other day, 68 percent said yes to PLO, while only 12.8 percent said yes to Hamas; the remainder gave no answer. No one can. Why? Because the PLO is the identity of the Palestinian people. Any attempt to transcend the PLO is an attempt to transcend the identity and the national rights of the Palestinian people, which is treason on the part of anyone or any country doing it, no matter how close they are.

[Ghazi] But there are some Palestinian factions outside the PLO.

['Arafat] It is the right of the Palestinian factions to differ among themselves, but it is not their right to differ with the PLO. The PLO represents the Palestinian identity and [words indistinct]. The PLO is the future of the Palestinian people and the independent Palestinian state. The PLO is Jerusalem.

[Ghazi] We want to talk frankly.

['Arafat] You know that if you had asked the deportees this question, their answer would have been the same.

[Ghazi] But there are Palestinian stands within and outside of the PLO. This doesn't cast doubt in the Palestinian identity or the role of the PLO, but these stands have recently [words indistinct].

['Arafat] We are proud of democracy. We are the one true democratic oasis in the Arab region. It is the number one democracy despite all that has happened in the Arab region. We have made all our decisions by majority rule and we respect the opinion of the minority, which follows the views of the majority.

[Ghazi] Does the minority accept the views of the majority as is the case in [word indistinct]?

['Arafat] If it does not agree, it will be a deviation. We, however, are not annoyed by the opposing views. It is enough that the Palestinian people are oppressed by those around them. We should not oppress them ourselves. Let them express their views. Let them express their views. This is democracy and let them express their views freely.

[Ghazi] Israel has not changed its position and you have not changed your position. All sides will be invited to attend the negotiations. What will the PLO do if the current situation remains unchanged?

['Arafat] Our position is very clear on the deportees [words indistinct] Jerusalem: If we do not receive assurance from the sponsors of the talks that these two issues will be resolved, it would be very difficult for any Palestinian to (?return to the talks).

[Ghazi] What would be the results?

['Arafat] Regardless of the results, we have our stands and we will never budge.

[Ghazi] Some say that this is an attempt to consolidate the conditions. In other words, we [words indistinct] and that the PLO will take part in the negotiations.

['Arafat] You know that the PLO, even during the last round of talks [words indistinct].

[Ghazi] But you participated in these talks after the cordon states' meeting in Lebanon even though you had previously refused to participate?

['Arafat] We must take into account our brothers and friends. But when it comes to main issues, it will be difficult for us. [Words indistinct] that is why we had symbolic participation with only four people. [passage indistinct]

[Ghazi] But there are guarantees that the negotiations will continue.

['Arafat] From where?

[Ghazi] Rabin and the United States.

['Arafat] Have you heard this from the Palestinians?

[Ghazi] No. Not from the Palestinian side. But what will the PLO's stand be if the Arabs go to the negotiations?

['Arafat] I have already told you our stand. Unless big changes occur, it will be difficult for us to go.

[Ghazi] Don't you believe that this stand will bolster the Palestinian unity [word indistinct]. Why aren't all those concerned with this issue unified? Why not keep the Palestinian stand firm and unchanged: No negotiations without achieving these conditions? This would consolidate the issue of the national Palestinian unity which is demanded by a large number of the Palestinians.

['Arafat] Only by some Palestinians. As leaders, we are concerned about the interest of the Palestinian people. We are guided by the interests of the Palestinian people and not by directions from outside the Palestinian arena. We fought for the sake of our national decision [words indistinct]. I believe you know how we fought for the sake of our independent Palestinian decision [words indistinct], for the sake of the Palestinian people, and for the future of the Palestinian people. We are only paper in the hand of a Palestinian child hurling a stone.

[Ghazi] Abu-'Ammar, let us go into the practical issue a little bit further. You are addressing the people of Lebanon, and they all know you through this radio. You had a long meeting and interview with [Israeli Knesset member] Ya'el Dayan. In this interview, which was published, you said that the United States asked us in the past not to create problems for the Israeli Government.

This is according to the text which was published in [words indistinct]. This was contained in the course of the interview...

['Arafat, interrupting] No, I will give you the recording of the interview. You can take it and review it.

[Ghazi] There is no problem. This issue was raised. If the PLO or Abu-'Ammar himself say something like this, where is the independent national decision? In other words, what is being said is that the positions of the PLO, or its leadership, or Abu-'Ammar, are sort of coordinated with the United States to continue these negotiations.

['Arafat] Not everything that was published in this magazine was accurate. Some paragraphs were omitted from the interview. As for what I said, I can give you the cassette to serve as a document for you and for the Arab nation. [words indistinct] Therefore, don't talk to me except about the documents I have. One more thing. This is not what was said. I said that the Americans insisted that we go to the last round of negotiations—although nothing was achieved—on the basis of a promise from them that they, the cosponsors of the conference, would correct the situation. Do not create problems for us and the Israelis any more than necessary, or else the Israeli Administration will fall. I told them: Is there any difference between Shamir and Rabin? My opinion, which I have expressed openly more than once, is that there is no difference between Rabin and Shamir, except in name. The Israeli objective is to divide the Arabs and the Arab positions in order to make Arab-Israeli peace at the expense of the Palestinian people.

[Ghazi] This is also possible. I want clarification. You said that Israel does not want peace with the Palestinians, but wants peace with the Arabs.

['Arafat] That is correct.

[Ghazi] Can you explain this, and how can it be achieved from a Palestinian point of view?

['Arafat] Israel does not want peace with the Palestinians, and for this reason no progress has been made on the Palestinian track. On the contrary, Israel's objective is to achieve Arab-Israeli peace at the expense of the Palestinians.

[Ghazi] Is this possible?

['Arafat] I hope not. I hope this will not happen.

[Ghazi] On the basis of your reading of the situation, is this possible?

['Arafat] I hope this will not happen.

[Ghazi] How do you view the positions of the Arab negotiators?

['Arafat] I want to tell you something. I do not judge what the Israelis say. If I judged what the Israelis say, I would be angry with my brothers. No. I judge what I am told by my brothers.

[Ghazi] Are you reassured about what you have been told?

['Arafat] I must respect what I am told until the contrary is proven.

[Ghazi] I mean the position of the cordon states.

['Arafat] I told you, I must respect it until it is proven otherwise.

[Ghazi] But there is talk, because there are many Palestinian circles. The possibility of separate agreements between some Arab states and Israel is feared.

['Arafat] [words indistinct] The Palestinian issue is the crux of the Middle East problem. There can be no peace without Palestinian peace. There can be no security without Palestinian security. There can be no stability without Palestinian stability. I want to remind you that Carter, al-Sadat, and Begin said after they signed the Camp David agreement that there would be no more war. But how many wars did take place after the Camp David agreement?

[Ghazi] But conditions have changed.

['Arafat] How many wars were there after Camp David?

[Ghazi] There were many wars. But conditions have changed now, Abu-'Ammar.

['Arafat] And so have our tactics, views, and strength. Nevertheless, you must understand that there will be no stability in the Arab area without the achievement of the Palestinian people's national rights. There will be no security without Palestinian security. Let them try. There also will be no security without Palestinian security. Let them try.

[Ghazi] Abu-'Ammar, you know that this is our conviction and hope...

['Arafat, interrupting] This is not just conviction. It is my deep feeling and conviction.

[Ghazi] That is right. But the issue, as you know, is that of balances of power. Between the past and present there has been Arab division, and [words indistinct]...

['Arafat, interrupting] No, no. [words indistinct] Were you and we not left to be hit and slaughtered in Beirut?

[Ghazi] The conditions were different, the security conditions...

['Arafat, interrupting] This did not happen? Is it not possible that had the Soviets sent a ship or addressed an ultimatum as they did in 1956, we would not have been hit in Beirut? Wouldn't matters have changed had the Soviets addressed an ultimatum like that during the

Cuban missile crisis? They did not do such things. Isn't that right? Nevertheless, you and we fought alone—is this right or not—from Tyre until the Beirut siege, for more than 88 days.

[Ghazi] Still, there were...

['Arafat, interrupting] The balances of power were upset.

[Ghazi] They have changed even more today.

['Arafat] Let me tell you something. They have not changed.

[Ghazi] Abu-'Ammar, we were trying at a certain period to correct the balance of power in cooperation with Syria. There was a Soviet Union, and then [words indistinct].

['Arafat] I want to tell you something, Ghazi, you should have a strategic view, as I have always known you.

[Ghazi] I am now engaged in journalism, Abu-'Ammar.

['Arafat] But you are a man whose views we appreciate. Listen, the U.S. need for Israel has diminished, but not ended. Israel had specific roles to play. One of its roles was to serve as a forward base against the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has come to an end. Therefore, Israel's role against the Soviet Union has ended. The second point is that Israel is a forward base for the United States and the West in the Arab region. But this strategic value also has diminished. Why? For a simple reason, which we must remember. U.S. soldiers did not need Israel when they landed at the Arab oilfields.

[Ghazi] Two days ago [Israeli President] Herzog tried to incite reaction by saying that fundamentalism is the major threat...

['Arafat, interrupting] Don't, don't, don't bother with what Herzog says. They are trying to market the idea of the guard dog. I am talking about strategic issues. They know this. Go back to what [former Israeli Foreign Minister and Knesset member] Abba Eban has said. He said: I hope that Israel will retain even less than what UN Resolution 181 partitioned. Abba Eban said this because he is a man who is aware of historic changes. Therefore, those who arrived at the oilfields need stability in the region. There will be no stability without solving the Palestinian problem. If no just, comprehensive peace, taking into primary consideration the question of ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories, is achieved, chaos will prevail in the region...

[Ghazi, interrupting] This is the Israeli game.

['Arafat] No.

[Ghazi] You mean it is the U.S. game?

['Arafat] And Balkanization, and Balkanization. Balkanization means [words indistinct]. You must know that although the Soviet Union has collapsed, it still possesses 33,000 nuclear warheads. This means that there is one nuclear warhead for every city in the world with a population of 200,000.

[Ghazi] But it is not known how these nuclear warheads are going to be used—against whom and for whom. Are we wagering on them?

['Arafat] No. You did not understand me. Please, Ghazi. I am telling you that the Soviet Union, for all its formidable power, collapsed. This could happen to Israel. Military power is not everything, and they know it.

[Ghazi] Does this mean that there is an impression—I do not want to say satisfaction—that the United States is working to establish a settlement in the region?

['Arafat] We understand that the Americans, the Europeans, and the world at large need a settlement in the region.

[Ghazi] Are they working for it?

['Arafat] I am telling you, if peace is not achieved, there will be complete chaos; there will be Balkanization, and Israel will not be safe from it.

[Ghazi] How? Why should Israel be affected?

['Arafat] Did anyone expect the developments in Yugoslavia? No one did, and yet they happened.

[Ghazi] But they can solve this problem by giving the Palestinians minimum rights—nothing to speak of, really—and the Palestinians will remain under the siege of the Israeli policy.

['Arafat] I tell you that if we do not attain our full rights in accordance with international legitimacy, we will not consider ourselves to have received any rights. We do not need leftovers.

[Ghazi] What are you counting on?

['Arafat] On the Palestinian child who has been fighting them for six years. I depend on these Palestinian people. Six years ago, Israel used to deploy only one battalion in the West Bank and one battalion in Gaza. Now, however, there are two divisions in the West Bank and two others in Gaza. Four out of the 11.5 Israeli Army divisions are now serving there; this has been the case for six years. If you review what they write now...

[Ghazi, interrupting] What is the possibility of the intifadah continuing under the shadow of this Palestinian and Arab situation?

['Arafat] [words indistinct] You know they challenged me. When he was defense minister, Rabin challenged me. At the beginning of the intifadah, he said he would crush it in two days. I was in Sanaa that day. I told him: Take two days, two weeks, two months, two years; let us see. Some people wondered whether it was really possible for the intifadah to drag on for two years. But I knew it would.

[Ghazi] The Lebanese say this to you: In 1982, you told them [the Israelis]: Welcome to Lebanon. They did come, and what happened is known.

['Arafat] Yes. Did Israel not suffer the biggest military defeat in its history?

[Ghazi] But the PLO was hit in its main center.

['Arafat] Okay. True, it was a main center. But it was not the PLO that... [changes thought] It was not the Israelis that hit the PLO. You know this.

[Ghazi] In this atmosphere, how can the countries involved in this question—that is, the PLO—reach agreement or accord?

['Arafat] Can we deny what happened? Can we stay blind to the facts? You are asking me about the past, and this how the past was.

[Ghazi] No, I am talking about [words indistinct]

['Arafat] You cannot impose your views on me....

[Ghazi, interrupting] Of course.

['Arafat, continuing] You cannot. My views are clear and known on the Arab and international levels. Nevertheless, I extend my hands to all my Arab brothers. Now I am trying to bring the Arabs together after the Gulf war.

[Ghazi] But this, too, created a problem for you.

['Arafat] How?

[Ghazi] In Iraq...

['Arafat, interrupting] You have your own views. Sorry, Ghazi. You are talking about things as you see them on the surface. I deal with history.

[Ghazi] Abu-'Ammar, I am a journalist now. I am...

['Arafat, interrupting] No. I deal with history. Listen...

[Ghazi, interrupting] The PLO experienced a problem in the course of attempts to organize relations with Arab countries after the Gulf war. Abu-Mazin [Fatah Central Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas] was in Saudi Arabia while Abu-'Ammar was in Iraq...

['Arafat, interrupting] We have never restricted our movement...

[Ghazi, interrupting] Saddam Husayn awarded you the Mother of Battles medal.

['Arafat] What is wrong with that? [words indistinct as both men engage in an argument]

[Ghazi] I am asking you your view, not others' views.

['Arafat] Do not forget that some Gulf countries welcomed my tour. I am not reviewing press reports. We all lost. No one won in the Gulf war. Let me give you an example. The United States announced the other day that the Arabs lost $800 billion in the Gulf war. All the debts of the Third World are less than $800 billion, excluding Mexico and Brazil. Imagine what $800 billion would have done for the Arab world.

[Ghazi] True, but eventually there are responsibilities...

['Arafat, interrupting] We are assessing the outcome and all of us were losers. Whether we like it or not, we are facing a new world order. We either face it divided as we now are and our next generations will curse us and history will have no pity, or we try to assemble ourselves and muster our forces at least to a minimal level to renovate the Arab homeland. What happens among Arabs will not parallel what happened between the Germans and French, who are still [words indistinct] who differ in language, race, religion, inclination, culture, and economic system. Today there is European unity led by Germany and France. How many wars broke out between them? Are they better than us? Therefore, we are required to at least match them, and not to be any lesser.

[Ghazi] The PLO is engaged in an attempt with the cordon states to formulate a joint plan to deal with the peace negotiations in a unified stand...

['Arafat, interrupting] The attempt will be pursued. [Syrian Foreign Minister] Faruq al-Shar' said two days ago that a meeting will be held in Damascus soon after Christopher's tour.

[Ghazi] Are you satisfied with this cooperation and coordination with Syria?

['Arafat] No, not enough.

[Ghazi] What are your observations?

['Arafat] The cooperation must be deeper and more effective.

[Ghazi] With Jordan?

['Arafat] [words indistinct] the Jordanian delegation.

[Ghazi] Do you not think that the issue requires a more united Palestinian stand and further embracing of the intifadah due to the recent inter-Palestinian differences?

['Arafat] Have they affected the intifadah?

[Ghazi] Their continuation undoubtedly has had an effect.

['Arafat] Do not talk about minor points...

[Ghazi, interrupting] We are not talking about minor points.

['Arafat] I insist on saying minor points. I want to tell you something: I do not tolerate Arab custodianship. How much less when Hamas comes to me with Iranian custodianship. Do you think the Palestinian people would accept that? I will continue to try to bring them into the Palestinian house. Let flowers blossom in the

Palestinian garden. But any flower that blossoms outside the Palestinian garden is of no value. Be sure that if Hamas breaks away and remains allied with Iran and others, its prestige among Palestinians will diminish greatly.

[Ghazi] Iran was the first state to hoist the Palestinian flag...

['Arafat, interrupting] It was me who raised the flag with it. I raised this flag with Iran.

[Ghazi] This is true.

['Arafat] I told [Iranian President] Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Do not try to play this game with the Palestinians. I told him this. I am a friend of Hashemi-Rafsanjani. But I thanked him and told him: Do not play the game of Palestinian division.

[Ghazi] Can we say that the issue is arranged in this direction?

['Arafat] Yes.

[Ghazi] What about the U.S. meeting with Hamas in Jordan? was it along these lines...

['Arafat, interrupting] By God, be honest. What do you call the meeting with the CIA?

[Ghazi] Many have met with the CIA.

['Arafat] Who?

[Ghazi] [Morocco's] King Hassan spoke about the PLO's meeting with the CIA.

['Arafat] No.

[Ghazi] It is written in the book "Memoirs of a King." He says that this happened in Morocco...

['Arafat, interrupting] This is not true. The meeting was not with the CIA. The meeting was with Vernon Walters, with Vernon Walters.

[Ghazi] Is this a correction of the king's memoirs?

['Arafat] This is not important. The meeting took place with Vernon Walters, who was later appointed U.S. representative to the United Nations, when I declared the independent Palestinian state and the Palestinian peace initiative at the UN General Assembly in Geneva in 1988. Walters was [words indistinct]. This is with whom I met. What you are saying is not true.

[Ghazi] But I am a journalist. It is important that you give us your opinion, Abu-'Ammar.

['Arafat] [words indistinct] I am advocating a dialogue with the United States. Baker promised us to resume the dialogue. But this has not yet happened.

[Ghazi] Why?

['Arafat] Bush met with the Palestinian delegation at the end of the last round of negotiations on a Friday. Bush also met with another delegation led by my brother Faysal [al-Husayni]. Bush told the Palestinian delegation: I am a lame duck. This is an American expression. What does he mean by lame duck? He sent troops to Somalia, attacked Iraq, and concluded the GATT agreement [words indistinct] the European economy. Bush also signed other agreements with Latin America, dealing economic blows to Latin American states. He also signed SALT II with Russian President Yeltsin. Can you imagine that all this, except for the Palestinian dialogue, was achieved by a lame duck? This shows how important the Palestinian position is [words indistinct]. This position is important for the Middle East region, which is strategic regarding the three continents, and for the population of the Arab nation, which controls this region. The Middle East also is essential regarding the oil reserves that the world needs for the next 50 years.

[Ghazi] Abu-'Ammar: Let us conclude this section and move to another. You are working to bring together all the Palestinians and take them back to the Palestinian home. What do you have to offer them?

['Arafat] I tell them, very simply, that the Palestinian home needs every working hand. Let us build this Palestinian home to face our destiny while united. To be or not to be. Now, we are very close to regaining something for the Palestinian people. The more united we are, the more valuable this thing will be.

[Ghazi] Are you certain that they will gain something?

['Arafat] Of course, no question about that. The world, the United States and the West, know that without it there will be no stability in this...

[Ghazi, interrupting] Will the Palestinians gain something independent of this?

['Arafat] Of course.

[Ghazi] Will there an independent state for the Palestinians?

['Arafat] In the first year there will be an interim self-government authority [preceding three words in English], meaning the authority of the Palestinian interim self-government, which is a transitional period for the change of power. Then, the final stage will start, which, as affirmed in all the sessions of our Palestine National Council, will lead to a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. Don't forget that Jordan...

[Ghazi, interrupting] But if the United States continues such a policy, and if Israel remains intransigent, backed by the U.S. policy, how can you attain this end?

['Arafat] Then there will be no stability in the region, and the United States knows it. So does Israel.

[Ghazi] So you are still certain and speak confidently that...

['Arafat, interrupting] Once I was visiting Gorbachev in 1988. He asked me: Could the intifadah continue for another two months? I was there in March 1988. I told him: Comrade—and he was still comrade at the time—do you mean until you meet Reagan? He laughed and said yes. So I told him no; not only two months, but two years and even more. I met him later, the last time we met, in Berlin before the Berlin Wall was knocked down and when the German Democratic Republic still existed. I reminded him of this, and he remembered. I asked him: Isn't the intifadah continuing? When I met [late Soviet leader] Andropov after leaving Beirut in 1983, and he had a recorder and [words indistinct], he asked me: Where to, Comrade 'Arafat? I told him: To Palestine. He said: Palestine? I said yes; I am going to Palestine. All my efforts and those of the PLO are in Palestine. We just moved from one place to another. So he said: But according to my information, the PLO's presence inside the occupied territories is not strong. I said: If this is the KGB's information, it is a disaster for you, not me. If your information about the world is such as this, it is a disaster for you, not me. (?This is why) the intifadah broke out. God's mercy on Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, who was killed at his home in Tunis on 16 April 1988].

[Ghazi] What do you ask of the cordon states, and let us begin with Lebanon.

['Arafat] May God help Lebanon. Lebanon...

[Ghazi, interrupting] There will be a special question about Lebanon, but we want your answer as far as the negotiations are concerned.

['Arafat] Lebanon is in the same position we are in. The Israeli conditions do not apply to the Palestinians alone. For the Lebanese these conditions are even more strict.

[Ghazi] What do you ask of Syria?

['Arafat] More coordination to find a just and comprehensive solution for the entire region.

[Ghazi] What do you want from Jordan?

['Arafat] I tell Jordan we are marching jointly until we get to Jerusalem, God willing.

[Ghazi] What do you want from the United States?

['Arafat] I am telling the United States that there is no peace other than the Palestinian peace.

[Ghazi] What do you want from Lebanon?

['Arafat] May God help Lebanon, and the Palestinians too.

[Ghazi] How do you view Lebanon's future? You have always spoken about conspiracies against Lebanon, about divisions, resettlement, Balkanization, and so on. Do you think these conspiracies still exist?

['Arafat] Yes, they are continuing; they are.

[Ghazi] Even after the al-Ta'if accord and the march of the new government?

['Arafat] Yes.

[Ghazi] What is being hatched for Lebanon?

['Arafat] Israel does not want Lebanon to return to its old role—a beacon for [word indistinct] and a banking center in the Arab region. I said this to AL-NAHAR [Beirut daily] before the explosion of events in Lebanon. I told them that the aim was to attack Lebanon as a banking center through which all oil money passed. They did not believe me. Now they do not want Lebanon, even through a peace process, to return as an Arab banking center. Therefore, they are not giving it enough assistance to solve its problems. If resources are made available, Lebanese know-how can promptly return things to what they were.

[Ghazi] Where are the Palestinians in Lebanon heading to, Abu-'Ammar?

['Arafat] To Palestine. As soon as a Palestinian state is established, no Palestinian will remain in Lebanon.

[Ghazi] Many people in Lebanon believe things are heading toward the resettlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

['Arafat] This is not true. This is meant only to create Lebanese-Palestinian problems. Let everyone remember that Khalil Khuri [son of former President Bishara Khuri], on behalf of the Lebanese Government, officially offered that I take southern Lebanon.

[Ghazi] Khalil Khuri?

['Arafat] Yes. May God have mercy on his soul. There also was talk about resettling us in Sinai. Why did we not resettle in Sinai...

[Ghazi, interrupting] But now things are different.

['Arafat] Let me continue. It was also said that we would be resettled in al-Ramadi in Iraq. Why did this not happen? It was said that we would be resettled in the northern Arab Peninsula. This did not happen. The Palestinians have no homeland other than Palestine.

[Ghazi] But the United Nations is taking measures in Beirut...

['Arafat, interrupting] You mean the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA]? No, these measures do not mean anything.

[Ghazi] But there are interpretations, even by some Palestinian circles, that....

['Arafat, interrupting] They are ignorant. I tell you that they are ignorant. These UNRWA measures respond to an old Palestinian demand. We do not want the Palestinians to lose their identity cards as refugees. We want

them to remain refugees so that they do not dissolve in the societies in which they are living. We insist on this. Anyone interpreting these measures differently is departing from the truth. Why is this not causing a problem in Jordan, Syria, Egypt, or inside the occupied territories?

[Ghazi] But there are different arrangements in those countries.

['Arafat] What happened regarding the distribution of identity cards in Lebanon happened in those countries, too. The measure was not just confined to the Palestinians in Lebanon. Anything else said about this is an attempt to foment hatred between the Palestinians and Lebanese...

[Ghazi, interrupting] Also between the Palestinians, because there is talk that the PLO has scaled down its aid for the camps in Lebanon, which would result in great suffering. At the same time, the United Nations reduced its aid, and the situation appears to be heading in that direction; that is, the settlement of the Palestinians.

['Arafat] The PLO is experiencing a crisis and has not received any aid from anyone in 34 months. Not from anyone. Despite this, the PLO absolutely has not abandoned its responsibilities in Lebanon up to this moment, including the Palestinian Red Crescent and every single camp. Are there jobs available in Lebanon for the Lebanese? There are no jobs for the Lebanese, so how can jobs be provided for the Palestinians? Jobs can help the Palestinians stay in Lebanon. [laughs] If you like, I will rid my hands of the situation, and then you can treat the Palestinians as the other militia and incorporate them into the Lebanese Army. Still, this remains our duty toward our people. We were compelled, however, to make cuts in certain spheres because of the general circumstances. Speaking about the UNRWA, there is no famine in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. But there is famine in Gaza, and the UNRWA and the United Nations admit this. Do you know that Gaza is the most populous area in the world? One million people live in Gaza, which is 340 square km. The Jews have confiscated 140 square km, and 200 square kms are left in which 1 million people are supposed to live. Gaza is the most populous area in the world; more populous than Hong Kong. Although there is famine in Gaza, the most spectacular acts of intifadah and resistance take place in Gaza.

[Ghazi] When will the inter-Palestinian fighting in Lebanon end?

['Arafat] Please do not say inter-Palestinian fighting. It is the act of foreign conspiracies against Palestinians in Lebanon, including the dispatch of some hired murderers to assassinate Palestinian figures, particularly from Fatah.

[Ghazi] Where?

['Arafat] In Sidon.

[Ghazi] We have heard that there have been assassination attempts in Tunis as well.

['Arafat] Everywhere. [words indistinct as both speak simultaneously] and Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf, former second in command of Fatah] in Tunis.

['Arafat] It was not the first time. It may have been the 10th time these groups had been apprehended. Was Abu-Jihad not killed in Tunis? The confrontation with the Palestinian revolution leadership and the Palestinian people and leadership is continuing everywhere.

[Ghazi] Do you not see that this confuses the Palestinians—at least in Lebanon—as the situation in Lebanon is somewhat different from that existing elsewhere?

['Arafat] If you see those arrested after the assassinations, I urge you to check their identity cards. I do not wish to talk any more about this, because it is known who gave them the identity cards.

[Ghazi] What do you say to the Palestinians in Lebanon?

['Arafat] We have a rendezvous in Jerusalem.

[Ghazi] And to the Lebanese?

['Arafat] We will pray together in Jerusalem, God willing.

[Ghazi] What is your message to the deportees?

['Arafat] I say to them: Be patient, and may God help you.

[Ghazi] Thank you, Abu-'Ammar.

'Arafat on Deportees, U.S. 'Message,' Iran

NC0603111093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat announced that Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya delivered to him a message from the U.S. Administration on Thursday [4 March]. He refused to reveal the contents of this message.

In an interview with today's edition of the international edition of AL-HAYAH, the Palestinian president said the deportee issue is very important, adding, however, that the basic issue remains Jerusalem.

'Arafat called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to accept the six points the PLO agreed to during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Jerusalem, saying it would give the peace negotiations new momentum.

The Palestinian president expressed his joy over PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas' visit to Saudi Arabia in January, saying: We view this event with great satisfaction because it was a Palestinian decision.

'Arafat said his recent visit to Baghdad came as part of the essence of the stand sought by the Arabs to restore their house.

The Palestinian president accused Iran of interfering in Arab and Palestinian affairs by encouraging extremist forces in the region and providing them with funds, arms, training, and political support. He said the Palestinian people will not allow Persian interference in their internal affairs.

He repeated his rejection of the idea of settling the Palestinians in Lebanon. He expressed his concern and fears that some do not want Lebanon to be restored as the commercial center of the Arab world, that they want this commercial center be moved to Israel.

'Arafat on Iran's Support for 'Extremist Forces'

LD0703200793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said that the Palestinian stance toward the resumption of peace negotiations was linked to Israel's approval of the proposals put forward by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to solve the deportees issue. On the other hand, he pointed out that Iran played a negative role at the Palestinian level.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-HAYAT, brother president Abu-'Ammar added that the issue was not only about the deportees but also about the Palestinian issue as a whole. This was expressed in the six points discussed by the U.S. secretary of state, which, he announced, were approved by Rabin.

The brother president added: Even if the Arabs return to the negotiations, this will be our stance; we hope that it is in harmony with the standpoint of our Arab brothers, whom we will inform of this decision.

He also believes that Jerusalem is the fundamental issue. Brother president Abu-'Ammar also said: I do not believe that the solution in the Middle East will be through new agreements of the Camp David type but through a comprehensive solution which takes into consideration the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Brother president Abu-'Ammar pointed out that Iran encouraged, unfortunately, the extremist forces, not only in the Palestinian arena but also in the whole region, giving them money, weapons, training, and political support. He added that it must be understood that any threat to an Arab Gulf state is a threat to Palestine. He also said: Our stance is clear, and this what we declared as far as Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb are concerned.

PLO Executive Committee Statement Issued

LD0603225593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Statement by the PLO Executive Committee, issued in Tunis on 6 March—read by announcer]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee, under the chairmanship of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestinen and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, with the participation of a number of members of Palestinian factions, held between a session of meetings between 2 and 6 March 1993 to discuss the current developments especially in the light of the result of the tour of the U.S. secretary of state to the region; and to follow-up the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 799 on the return of the deportees. The meeting also discussed matters pertaining to the political operation and its future probabilities foremost of which the issue of holy Jerusalem.

The meeting of the PLO Executive Committee also discussed the current Arab situation, contacts and meetings undertaken by brother-president Yasir 'Arafat and Palestinian delegations on Arab and international levels.

The Executive Committee discussed meticulously and in detail the present situation inside the occupied homeland especially in view of the escalating actions of the Israeli official and organized acts of oppression and terrorism which covered all occupied territories in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza Strip. These acts reached their peak during the implementation of measures of collective punishment, full siege and starvation, the destruction of dozens of houses, the use of aircraft missiles against defenseless civilians, carrying out massacres, and threatening the lives and rights of thousands of sons of of our people inside the valiant Gaza Strip and the rest of the occupied land.

The Executive Committee stressed the need to use all efforts to halt the Israeli terrorist measures, to guarantee security and international protection for our people, and to allow the UN Security Council and all international and appropriate forces and bodies to play an effective and decisive role to end the tragic situation that is being witnessed by our people because of the oppressive policy that is being pursued by Rabin's government, its suppressive measures and continuous violation of the Palestinian human rights and Fourth Geneva Convention.

The Executive Committee expressed its great pride in the steadfastness of our militant people and their resistance to the Israeli acts of terror and their gallant and heroic confrontation of the attacks of the occupied forces and the organized official repression of these forces.

The Executive Committee affirmed that steadfastness, unity, and resolve to continue the march along the path of the great popular intifadah will always remain the sharp weapon to force the occupiers to retreat and secure our inalienable national rights foremost of which are the

right to return, self-determination, and setting up the independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of our people.

The Executive Committee confirmed in the light of the various contacts and activities in the outgoing period, the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799 on the immediate repatriation of the deportees and doing away with the principle of deportation as an illegal and unlawful act, also upholding the rights of the Palestinian man which are being violated daily, and committment to the bases of the peace process as a point of reference which includes Holy Jerusalem.

The Executive Committee considered that these issues which were raised within the six points that were discussed with the U.S. secretary of state during his meeting with the Palestinian delegation form the actual criterion for the respect of the UN Security Council resolutions, and consequently ensure the resumption of the political process after the removal of the obstacles which have been laid in the path of the process.

The Executive Committee noted that the memorandum submitted by the Palestinian delegation to the U.S. secretary of state contained the affirmation concerning the need to uphold the points of reference of the negotiation, particularly the two Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of the land for peace, and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on the soil of their homeland including Holy Jerusalem, and the need to apply the points of reference to all the stages of the political process—providing all this will lead to reviving the process and to realizing its aims namely, realizing the just all-embracing solution in the area.

The Executive Committee affirmed that the Israeli Government's non-acceptance and non-adherence to these bases was the reason that led the negotiations to a dead end in the period that has gone by. It will lead to the same result in the future, a matter that calls on the two co-chairmen of the conference and international forces concerned to put an end to the methods of procrastinations and deviation from the bases of the political process, followed by the Rabin government, a matter that poses a threat to the entire peace process.

The meeting of the Executive Committee concentrated on the issue of Jerusalem, noting that this issue occupies the basic place in all the stages of the political process. It rejects any attempt to circumvent the position of Holy Jerusalem as an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories and as a capital of the State of Palestine, the first of the two qiblahs and the third holiest mosque—the place where the Prophet Muhammad—may the peace and blessing of God be upon him—started his flight to the seven heavens, and the birth place of the Messiah—peace be upon him.

The Palestinian leadership called for more unity of the Arab, Islamic, and international position to safeguard the position of Holy Jerusalem and to ensure the continuing commitment of the co-chairmen to the peace process with regard to the international resolutions on Jerusalem and to protect Jerusalem against the continuing operation of settlements building and Judaization contrary to all the commitments and undertakings which accompanied the peace process.

The Executive Committee debated the importance of strengthening the unity of the Arab ranks and the need to overcome all the issues of disagreement and struggle witnessed by the Arab area. It affirmed the need to continue the effort to develop bilateral relations with fraternal Arab countries and build a unified Arab stand for the sake of protecting the Arab and Palestinian rights foremost of which is our right in Holy Jerusalem.

The Executive Committee affirmed the need to continue consultation and joint action among the five Arab states which are involved in the peace process and to work for broadening this framework so that it includes all the countries concerned so that they take part in the peace process and at the level of the Arab League by holding urgent meetings to discuss the current developments and study the necessary steps for the removal of the obstacles which the Rabin government has placed in the path of the peace process.

The Executive Committee also discussed the movements and contacts which took place at international level. It expressed its great appreciation for the step taken by the Belgian Government in raising the level of Palestinian representation—a matter that represents a genuine expression of the development of the European position and the mounting awareness of international public opinion of the fact that solving the Palestinian issue constitutes the heart of the all-embracing and just solution in the area.

The Palestinian leadership called for a greater European role and likewise a greater role for Russia, China, Japan, the Islamic group, the African and nonaligned states, all the forces and organizations and international institutions that are eager to strengthen the chances of just peace.

The Executive Committee assessed the consultations which took place with the Russian Government being one of the two co-chairmen of the conference, also the contacts with a number of friendly states in Europe, Asia, and Africa during the past period.

The Executive Committee noted the importance of continuing the steps to strengthen the unity of national position inside and outside the occupied areas. It expressed its great pride in the all-embracing national unity and the complete rallying of our militant people inside and outside the homeland around their national aims and their unrelenting resolve to secure their inalienable national rights on the soil of their homeland so that the banner of Palestinian independence can be hoisted over Holy Jerusalem—the capital of our independent state. It is a revolution until victory.

Al-Husayni on U.S. Assurances, Deportees Issue

NC0503171693 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 5 Mar 93 p 28

[Report by Salwa Abu-Sa'dah]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, leader of the Palestinian negotiating team [title as received], has informed AL-MUSAWWAR that he received a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton assuring him that the new U.S. Administration will remain committed to the peace process, which will enable the Palestinian people to attain their political rights. Al-Husayni said President Clinton emphasized the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, noting that the negotiations are not an end in themselves, but merely a step toward the settlement of disputes in this region.

Al-Husayni added: We also received a promise that the United States will continue to be a full partner in the talks and that its role will not be limited to encouraging the various parties to negotiate, but will involve the formulation of new solutions to maintain the peace momentum and settle all differences. We received another message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher assuring us about the U.S. commitment to ensure the deportees' return and to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and its adherence to the land-for-peace principle. The message stressed that deportation is illegal and contravenes the Geneva conventions. The Americans, however, did not refer to any particular solution to this issue.

Al-Husayni commented on the Israeli position on the Palestinian demand to renounce the policy of deportation as a condition for the Palestinian return to the negotiating table. He said: At one point we were given to understand that the Israelis had accepted that. They inexplicably backed down at the last moment, however. Our position on the deportations is clear. They must not continue. All this depends on a public Israeli announcement regarding UN Security Council Resolution 799 and their declaration that they will not resort again to deportation. Only then can we sit down together and talk.

Al-Husayni stated that he has not heard about the suggestion that Lebanon and Syria might play host to the remaining deportees [after 100 are allowed to return].

Referring to the U.S. Administration's positive moves, as seen by the Palestinians, al-Husayni said that the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the Middle East was an opportunity to explore this administration's attitude toward the region's problems. He remarked: Through Christopher's visit we were able to see that the U.S. Administration wants the dialogue and the peace process to continue. Its assurances and commitment to the land-for-peace principle shows that at least it is following the former administration's policy.

Al-Husayni, however, ruled out a Palestinian return to the negotiating table before the deportees crisis is settled. He noted that the Palestinian delegation will discuss this issue with the foreign ministers of the cordon states at their next meeting in Damascus.

'Text' of al-Husayni Memo to Christopher

TA0803112693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Mar 93 p 4

["Text" of memorandum by Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian advisory committee, to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, dated 3 February 1993]

[Text] To U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher:

From Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the Middle East peace process.

Subject: Deportation

In reference to your letter of 2 February, conveyed to us through the consul general in Jerusalem, and based on the assessment and instructions of the PLO, we would like to raise the following observations.

1. Although we value your efforts in the endeavor to achieve progress on the deportee issue, we remain convinced that the only just solution lies in making Israel comply fully with Security Council Resolution 799 and not in bilateral deals between the United States and Israel.

2. We were neither consulted on nor informed of the contents of the intensive talks with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. This is very strange as this is a matter of great importance to the Palestinians.

3. Following our repeated warning about the results of the continuing Israeli policy of human rights violations in the occupied territories and its destructive effect on the negotiations, we consider the collective deportation of more that 400 Palestinians, implemented on 17 December 1992, a qualitative escalation of this policy. We are convinced that this escalation and its fatal effect on the peace process are a logical outcome of Israel's deliberate violation of human rights and of the lack of active intervention by the cosponsors of the peace process. We stress here that this tragic situation is another indication of a basic flaw in the peace process—namely, not holding Israel accountable and the absence of protection for the Palestinians.

4. It is essential that this issue be addressed in a way related to its essence, meaning the illegality of deportation itself as a means of collective punishment and as a grave violation of the Geneva Convention and the consequent and necessary condition of canceling the recent deportation decisions and making Israel stop practicing this policy.

5. The U.S.-Israeli agreement is an attempt to organize the deportation rather than cancel it, while we believe the issue is not one of numbers or logistics. A fundamental issue is at stake: the implementation of the

Fourth Geneva Convention. The deportation issue is the real test of Israel's attitude toward international human rights laws and the binding international conventions.

6. Moreover, this issue puts something else to the test as well: Israel's commitment to Security Council resolutions and the will of the international community. We wish to establish a positive precedent that obliges Israel to join the United Nations community as an equal party and not as a state above the law receiving preferential treatment. The credibility of the United States and the United Nations, as well as the future of the peace process, hinges on putting an end to double standards and dual policies.

7. In this context, the U.S.-Israeli agreement is a circumvention of and is incompatible with Resolution 799. The main aim of this agreement is to absolve Israel and the United States of the consequences of Israel's intransigence toward UN resolutions. We feel that such political settlements might undermine the legal and international status of the parties concerned when the victim continues to be punished.

By resorting to the Security Council, we are endeavoring to uphold the moral and legal aspects, in addition to finding a practical and acceptable solution to the current crisis in the implementation of Resolution 799. We do not perceive sanctions as an aim but as a means of securing the implementation of the resolution. If Israel announces its commitment to a final date for implementing Resolution 799, our demands will have been met.

9. We affirm that Resolutions 242 and 338 are the basis of the entire peace process. The way in which Resolution 799 has been addressed raises serious questions: What guarantees are there that when the time comes to implement the two resolutions, we will not face another U.S.-Israeli agreement exempting Israel from their implementation?

10. We would like to stress that we refuse to support or be part of any action that seeks to undermine our democratic right to exercise political pluralism or that tries to level repressive measures against an individual or a selected group on a discriminatory basis because of their political views and ideas. We cannot accept any justification for depriving any group or person of basic national and human rights.

11. Based on the above, we would like to point out that the Israeli deportation decision continues to have a negative effect on the chances of peace in the region. Consequently, Israel continues to bear the full responsibility for the nonresumption of the multilateral and bilateral negotiations.

While reaffirming our commitment to the peace process, we regret that in light of the continued Israeli violation of international law and Palestinian human rights, we are unable to participate in the upcoming rounds of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. A just solution of the deportation issue is based on implementation of Resolution 799 and is the prerequisite for the resumption of all negotiations.

12. In conclusion, and in reference to the last clause in your letter, I would like to point out that I and my colleagues discussed this issue with the U.S. side in an attempt to reach a just solution compatible with the aforementioned principles. We did not provide "any assistance or guidance so that the deportee issue would reach the outcome that it has reached." This outcome was a complete surprise to us. We still see it as being inconsistent with our rights and with the principles, requirements, and goals of the peace process.

13. We remain absolutely convinced that the stable and durable solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a genuine peace based on justice and international legitimacy. All our efforts and responses stem from this commitment and are aimed toward this goal.

'Arafat Adviser on Israeli Decision on Gaza

NC0503163193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the Palestinians are waiting for the United States to pressure Israel and make it resolve the issue of the deportees, particularly after the agreement of principles which was worked out between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

In a statement upon his arrival in Cairo today at the end of a visit of several days to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Sha'th said that the PLO currently is holding intensive contacts with Egypt and a number of Arab countries in a bid to pressure Israel and make it lift the siege imposed on the occupied Gaza Strip. This siege, Dr. Sha'th added, is a crime aimed at starving and wiping out the Palestinian people.

Dr. Sha'th expressed regret over remarks attributed to Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi [head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks] that any Israeli decision to withdraw from Gaza is a crime. He added: We are prepared to take the occupied Gaza Strip and administer it if Israel withdraws from it. We will not relinquish one inch of the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem. Dr. Sha'th said that the Israeli withdrawal will not generate any differences among the Palestinians, as some imagine.

'Arafat Adviser Seeks U.S. Pressure on Israel

NC0603110093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo this morning following a short one-day visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, Dr. Sha'th said there are positive signs on the Palestinian deportee issue and the start of the peace negotiations. He added that PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas' visit to Moscow has brought positive results and that Moscow will remain in constant touch with the Palestinian leadership to reach practical solutions on the deportee issue and the resumption of the peace talks. He added that an agreement was reached with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the return of the deportees and the Israeli authorities' commitment not to deport any Palestinian in the future. However, this agreement has not yet been translated into action with a specific timetable.

He stressed that the U.S. Administration needs to intervene and pressure Israel to implement the agreement.

Dr. Sha'th commented on a news agency reports that Israel has deported a Palestinian to Jordan for five years, saying that this is a new escalation on the part of Israeli authorities. He added that he will travel to Tunisia after his visit to Morocco to hold more consultations with the Palestinian leadership on this issue.

PLO's 'Abbas on Russia's Promise on Deportees

PM0503153693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Mar 93 pp 1, 4

[Jalal al-Mashitah report: "Abu-Mazin: Russia Promised To Hold Contacts With Israel and the United States To Settle the Deportees Issue"]

[Text] Moscow, London—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) left Moscow yesterday for Tunis to report to the Palestinian leadership on the results of his talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. He told AL-HAYAH that he received promises that contacts would be made with the Americans and the Israelis to solve the deportees problem. He said that the peace conference could be resumed on time "if there are good intentions." It has been learned that a U.S.-Russian meeting may be held in Madrid soon to resume consultations between the two sides.

Abu-Mazin emphasized that the Palestinian side believed that the negotiations were "delayed more than necessary" and that the deportees problem which stood in the way must be solved. The responsibility for a solution, he said, falls primarily on the shoulders of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and then the United States and then Russia as the cosponsor.

He said that, after accepting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's six-point proposal, the Palestinians asked him to leave one of his aides behind in Jerusalem to complete the negotiations, but the situation changed the following day "and we believe the cause of that change was Rabin." He said that the Israelis mainly objected to two of the six points relating to the illegality of the deportation and reaffirmation of the terms of reference (namely the UN resolutions,) and, secondly, the issue of Jerusalem. The U.S. message said nothing about the last point.

He further said that the Palestinians did not believe that the agreement has collapsed and were trying to "salvage it," making the following four main points: Commitment to nonrepetition of the deportation measure; rescheduling of the repatriation of the deportees after repatriation of "a number" higher than the proposed 101; reaching agreement regarding repatriation of those deported after 1967; and adherence to human rights.

On the aims of his visit to Moscow, Abu-Mazin said that it had intially been agreed that a meeting would be held between Kozyrev and President Yasir 'Arafat in Geneva but the Russian Foreign Ministry later requested that the venue to changed to Copenhagen. As there are no relations between the Palestinians and Denmark, the meeting did not take place and, instead, Abu-Mazin was invited to Moscow for talks on resumption of the negotiations.

The Palestinian official denied that the Russians put pressure on the delegation. He said that "they appreciate the PLO's circumstances" and its nonparticipation in the negotiations while the deportation continues. He also said that he understood that the U.S.-Israeli agreement "was not acceptable to all parties" and that the Russians did not consider the Israeli proposals to be sufficient.

Moscow promised to convey the Palestinian position to the Americans and the Israelis. AL-HAYAH has learned from a Russian Foreign Ministry source that Moscow considers the ideas brought by Abu-Mazin to be "very flexible." The source said that urgent messages were exchanced with Washington and that a meeting might be held between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian and Viktor Basovalyuk, director of the Africa and Middle East section at the Russian Foreign Ministry, in the Spanish capital Madrid or somewhere else to resume the talks.

Abu-Mazin stressed to AL-HAYAH that the negotiations "cannot begin" without the Palestinians. He added: "I doubt" that the Arabs would go without them.

On the chances of "flexibility" in the Israeli position with the likely consequent internal problems for Rabin, he said that he was aware that there was strong internal opposition from the Israeli right but "if Rabin wants to act as a democratic leader, he should be prepared for adventure and sacrifice." He added that he did not believe that Rabin's government would fall, because it has a "comfortable" majority in the Knesset and Likud cannot form an alternative government.

In reply to a question about likely developments if Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] rejects the proposed plan, Abu-Mazin said that "would not be an objective" stance because the ideas proposed fulfill two main principles, namely rejection of the idea of deportation and repatriation of the deportees.

In London, European sources which have links with the Israeli Labor Party say that Hamas' efforts are currently geared toward settlement of the deportees issue through it and not any other party. They said that the movement [Hamas] has been very flexible in its contacts with all the parties seeking a solution to the deportees problem but wants it confirmed that it is the right channel for finding a solution. The same sources revealed that Hamas did not object to meeting with members of the Israeli Government to discuss the deportees issue and present itself as a main figure in the political equation in the occupied territory.

Vietnamese President Sends Message to 'Arafat

LD0703203993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, today received a reply message of thanks and support from comrade Le Duc Anh, president of the Republic of Vietnam.

In his message the Vietnamese president expresses his country's anxiety about the Israeli escalation of the policy of terrorism and organized repression against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He holds the Israeli Government responsible for violating the fourth Geneva convention, which guarantees the protection of civilians in wartime.

Vietnam also expresses its firm eagerness for Israel to adhere to the implementation of the UN resolutions calling for an end to these violations and the immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799, which allows the immediate return of the Palestinian deportees to their homes. Vietnam also affirmed its continuous support for the just Palestinian struggle under the leadership of the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative, so that Palestinians can recover their national, basic, and inalienable rights.

Fatah Official Warns on Israeli Gaza Withdrawal Plan

NC0703120393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo, has warned against the Israeli scheme to carry out an unprogrammed withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip to create a state of chaos and instability in that area. He said Israel's objective is to cause sedition or civil war in Gaza so it can later intervene in those events.

Al-Qidrah told MENA that the Palestinians are striving for total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories but want an organized transfer of power to a Palestinian national authority.

He said if Israel really wants to hand over the Gaza Strip in a calm and peace-inducing manner, it must take place across the negotiating table and in agreement with the Palestinian side so that it can be done properly.

PFLP-GC Issues Statement on 'Ayn-Hulwah Raid

JN0603182793 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1748 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Commenting on the Zionist raid against 'Ayn al-Hulwah [refugee] Camp, a military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has made the following statement:

Pursuing its Nazi war against our Palestinian masses, and as has been its wont in attacking civilian targets, the Zionist enemy's aircraft this afternoon, Saturday 6 March 1993, raided positions in 'Ayn al-Hulwah. The Zionist enemy claimed that the attack was against a PFLP-GC position, but the raiding aircraft hit civilian targets within the camp, wounding a number of our people, and causing considerable damage to homes and commercial establishments.

Only too aware that the enemy does not make a distinction between civilian and military targets and that the Zionist enemies are terrorists bent on killing women, children, and the elderly, the PFLP-GC hails our steadfast people who are holding out both inside [the occupied territories] and in exile, and promises our people and Arab nation that it will stay the course of jihad until the liberation of the land and man.

[Signed] PFLP-GC

* Survey: 58 Percent See PLO as Representative

93P50078A Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic 25 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ Exclusive—Corresponding reports coming from the Arab occupied territories tell of the great popularity achieved by Hamas after the deportation of 400 [as published] of its leaders. This popularity even extended to the Fatah Movement. These reports affirm that many Fatah cadres have joined Hamas in more than one occupied town.

The reports attribute this to many causes, the most important of which are:

- Hamas's steadfast rejection of negotiations with the Zionist enemy, which have not made any progress.
- The noticeable gap between the positions of the Palestinian negotiating team and the PLO leadership on the issue of resuming negotiations.
- Reduced PLO expenditures in the occupied territories. This includes the families of martyrs, prisoners, and the wounded at a time when the expenses for Yasir 'Arafat's personal financiers have not been reduced. These include elitists, swindlers, and ineffectual persons.
- All this is in comparison with the noticeable increase in Hamas' spending potential.

Deportees Must Return Before Negotiations

These factors are reflected in the figures from a recent poll conducted in the occupied Palestinian territories by the Jerusalem Center for Media [and Communications]. The results showed that 83.7 percent of citizens in the occupied territories reject the Palestinian delegation's return to negotiations before the deportees problem is solved. At the same time, the percentage who see the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative decreased to only 58.1 percent. The survey's figures said that 14 percent support returning to negotiations after a "compromise solution" to the deportees problem. The opinion survey is considered the first of its kind in many years, in terms of geographical comprehensiveness. From 18-20 February, 1190 citizens [words missing]. However, the survey site was restricted to those who frequent the general services centers—sites for registration, travel information, identity cards, permits, etc.

The average age of respondents was 32 years, and 95 percent of them were in the 18-49 age bracket. The survey comprised six political questions about positions on the peace issue, negotiations, and representation of the Palestinian people. In the West Bank, 63.5 percent of the population participated; 36.5 percent of the Gaza Strip population participated. Of these, 21.7 percent said that they were village dwellers, 26.9 percent from the camps, and 51.4 percent from the cities and towns. Survey coordinator and supervisor Jamil Rabbah said that 85.4 percent of respondents were men and only 14.5 percent were women. He attributed this to many women's reluctance to take part in the survey. Of citizens participating in the survey, 60.6 percent supported the negotiating team's return to the negotiating table, and 35.4 percent opposed this. Four percent had no opinion. The question made the return to negotiations conditional upon a compromise solution to the deportees problem, but did not define the nature of the compromise solution. Of the respondents, 73.7 percent said that they were for a return after resolution of the deportees problem, but 32.2 percent rejected this, even after this problem is solved. Of those surveyed, 31.9 percent said that the negotiations will not lead to a result beneficial to the Palestinian people; 13.7 percent considered the negotiations an appropriate way to solve the Palestinian problem, and 50.7 percent thought that the negotiations might lead to some result, but an insufficient one.

The question of who, in the respondents view, represents the Palestinian people, showed that 58.1 percent consider the PLO as the people's representative, and 12.4 percent indicated that the Islamic movement represents the Palestinian people. However, 26.1 percent of survey participants responded in the affirmative to a question that true representation of the Palestinian people will come only through direct elections. Regarding America's ability to play the mediator's role in the negotiations after its stance on the deportation problem, 40.8 percent answered in the affirmative, and 53.3 percent did not see it as a mediator in the negotiations. Six percent had no opinion. The survey coordinator said that the margin of error is 6 percent. He said that he thought that the citizens were reluctant to show their support for the Islamic movement, maybe because of current circumstances. He said that 17 percent of Gaza's population saw the Islamic movement as their representative. By deduction, the Palestinians refuse negotiations without the deportees' return. Journalist Nasir 'Abd-al-Jawwad of the Jerusalem (Shamrav) Center pointed out that the survey results on PLO representation and elections were surprising.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Output Rises 160,000 Barrels in Feb

AU0803101493 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Paris, March 8 (AFP)—Oil output by the 12 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) rose by 160,000 barrels per day in February from the figure in January to total 25.35 million barrels per day, the International Energy Agency (IEA) reported here on Monday [8 March].

This was an increase from 25.19 million barrels per day in January.

OPEC has set a theoretical ceiling of 24.6 million barrels per day for output during the first quarter of 1993.

OPEC ministers decided in February to restrict their output from March 1 to 23.6 million barrels per day.

Algeria

'Terrorists' Assassinate Posts Inspector

LD0703191593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] A source in the security headquarters in the province of Blida says that at around 2030 on Saturday night, unidentified gunmen assassinated Mr. Said Haouas, an inspector in the post and communications administration in Blida, in the Ben Boulaid quarter in Blida. The source said that three terrorists carried out the crime, and they managed to flee; a search for them is under way.

Postponement of Hearing on Terrorist Case

LD0703192493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] The Algiers Special Judicial Council postponed today for the second time, and until next Tuesday's session, the hearing of the case of the terrorist group known as the Emir Noah group. The case, according to an APS report, was postponed following a request by the defense who justified it by saying it had not perused the indictment sheet, had not had contact with the defendants, nor studied the case file; the defense considered these to be serious matters. For this reason, the court ordered that the trial documents be put at the defense's disposal.

It is known that the facts of this case in which there are 51 defendants—40 of them imprisoned and the remainder at large—deal with events that go back to 1990. They carried out a number of terrorist acts under the leadership of Allam Abdennour, known as Emir Noah. Among the charges directed at this group are premeditated murder, aggravated theft, forming gangs, kidnapping, sequestration and threatening, carrying unlicensed arms, possessing military weapons, possessing and transporting explosives, and wearing military uniforms.

RCD Councillors Threaten To Resign Over Amnesty Offer

LD0703163593 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Hundreds of local councillors, particularly the members of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] party are threatening to resign in protest against the recent offer of amnesty to the Moslem fundamentalist militants made by Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam, reports Tahar Medjdoub.

[Medjdoub] Mr. Belaid Abdessalam will cost the country dearly, he should go, has said Said Saadi, the leader of the RCD. Benhamouda, the secretary general of the Algerian General Workers Union [UGTA] trade union put one more nail in the coffin and threatens with big social actions. As he says, not only has the prime minister imposed the freezing of salaries but, what is worse, he is preparing a law against the right to strike. As for Mohamed Benmansour, the chairman of the National Employers Union did not beat round the bush in criticizing Abdesselam. I quote: a [word indistinct] of totalitarian state who in addition to politics indulges in economic, social, cultural, and religious politics and who is responsible for the political unstability of the recent years, end of quote. Belaid Abdesselam has thus managed to mobilize against himself all those who supported him when he was appointed last summer. He succeeded first after having attempted to bring the private press to heel, then by (?pushing) economic reform through the bureaucracy and centralizing decisions, and finally by violently attacking political parties [passage indistinct] while making overtures to the grassroot militants of the National Liberation Front and to the fundamentalists. The associations which are preparing [word indistinct] are also included in this arm- wrestling which has already started between the prime minister and all those who last year put pressure on the army to remove President Chadli and suspend the election process.

'Mass Resignation' Denied

LD0703202593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Following the news which has circulating about a mass resignation by the elected members of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], an authorized source at the Interior and Local Communities Ministry said today that representatives of only one municipality had officially tendered their resignations. This was the municipality of Illilten, (Tifarhounene), Tizi Ouzou Province.

The same source noted that the chairman of the L'Arbaa Nait Irathen municipality has categorically refused to tender his resignation.

Egypt

Islamic Group Says No Involvement in NY Blast

NC0803120793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1155 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] In a statement issued in Cairo today, The Islamic Group denied any involvement in the bomb explosion at the World Trade Center in New York. The group said it does not attack innocent people, whatever their religion. The statement maintained that there is no connection between the explosion and the group's spiritual leader Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is currently residing in New Jersey.

Pledges Retaliation if Leader Targeted

NC0803123193 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 8 (AFP)—A Muslim extremist group on Monday [8 March] threatened to retaliate if

any action was taken against its spiritual leader over the World Trade Center bombing.

The underground al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [The Islamic Group], which has carried out a series of attacks against tourists in Egypt, denied that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman was involved in the attack, which killed five people and wounded more than 1,000.

The key suspect in the bombing worshipped at a mosque in Jersey City, New Jersey, headed by the radical Egyptian cleric, who has been in the United States on a tourist visa since 1990 although U.S. officials suspected him of terrorism.

Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah warned in a statement to news agencies that it would "respond to any action" taken against Shaykh 'Abd-al- Rahman, adding he would not be made a scapegoat.

'Abd-al Rahman denounced the bombing in a statement released Friday through an Arab-American leader.

The Jama'ah denounced the "vicious media campaign orchestrated by the American administration and the West" against the shaykh.

Press reports have played up the link between the suspects and 'Abd-al Rahman's mosque, although the authorities have not accused the cleric of any involvement in the attack.

Military Governor Orders Retrial of 'Abd-al-Rahman

NC0503195993 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 1 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] The military governor has decided on the retrial of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, leader of the al-Jihad organization and who is currently in the United States, in the case involving the riots that occurred on 1 Ramadan 1989 [7 April 1989].

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman and 49 of his followers were arrested following Friday prayers at al-Shuhada' Mosque in al-Fayyum on 1 Ramadan 1989. The prosecutor accused them of demonstrating against the regime. The Emergency Supreme State Security Court, composed of Counselor Hasan 'Umar as presiding judge and Counselors Kamil 'Ammar and 'Isam Khashabah as members, examined the case on 15 September 1990 and acquitted Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman and the 49 followers.

In pronouncing its judgment, the court urged "the government to apply the Islamic shari'ah in accordance with Article 2 of the Constitution, which stipulates that Islam is the state's religion, Arabic language the official language, and the Islamic shari'ah the main source of legislation."

Meanwhile, Dr. 'Abd-al-Halim Mandur, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman's lawyer, said his client stressed to him in a telephone call from the United States that he does not intend to travel to any country outside the United States.

On the retrial of Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman, Mandur said that the security authorities have failed to implicate Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman in the recent events in Egypt. This prompted these authorities to demand his retrial in a case in which he as acquitted three years ago in an attempt to arrest him and bring him back to Egypt.

On Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman's trial in the United States, Dr. Mandur said a court will issue its judgment shortly.

Exiled Mufti: U.S. 'Must Help' Overthrow Regime

NC0603132293 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 3 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] [Al-Jihad Organization Mufti] Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman said that all the necessary preparations have been made to establish an Islamic state in Egypt and that the United States must help in overthrowing the present ruling regime. He hoped Egypt's rulers will meet Anwar al-Sadat's fate.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman made these statements to REUTER in Jersey City in New Jersey.

Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman renewed his warning to foreign tourists in Egypt and added that he wants to return to Egypt immediately.

Blast Shakes U.S. Sense of 'Eternal Immunity'

NC0603084993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes that the explosion in New York of the World Trade Center building shows the dimension of the challenge facing Western democracies. The paper adds that this challenge is much more serious than other challenges the world has faced in the post-cold war period, including skyrocketing unemployment rates, the rapid spread of drug trafficking, or the deep-rooted corruption of dominant political powers.

In its 6 March issue, AL-AHRAM remarks that the advanced industrialized Western communities have become accustomed to periodic attacks, especially with the existence of notorious terrorist organizations like the Irish Republican Army, which lately mounted a campaign against the infrastructure in Britain.

The paper adds that the New York explosion puts Americans, for the first time ever, face to face with this type of terrorism. The explosion, the paper adds, shook not only the World Trade Center and its foundations but U.S. confidence in the eternal immunity of their society.

AL-AHRAM notes that the confusion that got the better of U.S. officials in their attempts to determine the causes

and perpetrators of the accident proves that democracies are no longer safe and that they might have to review their concepts, and probably their policies too.

Background Report on 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman

NC0503190993 Paris AFP in English 1815 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Report by Mona Salem]

[Text] Cairo, March 5 (AFP) - 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, a blind cleric who preaches in a New Jersey mosque frequented by the key suspect in the World Trade Center bombing, is the spiritual leader of Muslim extremists in Egypt who hope to topple the government.

The 54-year-old cleric issued the fatwa (religious decree) calling for the assassination of the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981 and has since promoted the violent overthrow of his successor, Husni Mubarak, and the establishment of an Islamic government.

'Abd-al-Rahman denounced the World Trade Center bombing in a statement released Friday through an Arab-American leader.

M.T. Mehdi, secretary-general of the National Council on Islamic Affairs, said the shaykh told him in a call from the Detroit, Michigan, area that "the bombing of the World Trade Center could not have been committed by a true Moslem."

However Muhammad Salamah, the main suspect in the February 26 bombing that left five dead and wounded more than 1,000, was linked by the FBI to the New Jersey mosque headed by 'Abd-al-Rahman.

'Abd-al-Rahman is a graduate of al-Azhar University—Sunni Islam's highest religious authority—with a doctorate in theology and had until al-Sadat's death taught at Asyut University in southern Egypt, a stronghold of Muslim extremists.

He was brought before the court in connection with al-Sadat's assassination but was acquitted for lack of evidence.

Since 1974, the cleric has been linked to the al-Jama'ah al- Islamiyah [The Islamic Group], whose clandestine Islamic cells emerged on Egyptian university campuses in the early 1970s and from which emerged the group al-Jihad, which claimed al-Sadat's death.

In 1974 he met Karam Zuhdi—sentenced to 25 years in prison in the Sadat case—who invited 'Abd-al-Rahman to al-Jama'ah meetings. In 1981, he became the spiritual guide of al-Jihad and issued the decree legitimizing al-Sadat's assassination.

In the late 1980s, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, who had returned to his hometown of al-Fayyum, reappeared under the banner of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah of which he became the amir, or guide.

After a period of Islamic agitation in al-Fayyum in 1989 and 1990, during which Christian Copts were targeted, 'Abd-al-Rahman left Egypt in February 1990 following a secret agreement with authorities.

He stopped briefly in the Muslim holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia and in Sudan before settling in the United States in May of that year where he pursued his activism, issued fatwas and made cassettes condoning violence to overthrow the government.

He recently told reporters: "I wish for Husni Mubarak the same fate as that of al-Sadat."

He is suspected of issuing a fatwa recommending the killing of Egyptian secular author Faraj Fudah, who was gunned down in June 1992 by Muslim fanatics.

'Abd-al-Rahman has denied calling for the struggle against tourism in Egypt, but officials here have repeatedly said they thought he was behind several attacks on foreign holidaymakers.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman has two wives and several children in al- Fayyum. He remarried in the United States. But since polygamy is illegal there, his residence permit was withdrawn and he now faces deportation.

Police Detain 70 Members of Islamic Group

NC0503223393 Paris AFP in English 2155 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Asyut, Egypt, March 5 (AFP) - An Islamic fundamentalist from the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [The Islamic Group] movement was killed and another wounded Friday [5 March] during clashes with Egyptian security forces, while the body of a conscript was found in the same area of Upper Egypt, police said.

Separately, police said they detained 70 al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah militants as suspects in the killing Wednesday of a police officer and his son in Upper Egypt. [passage omitted]

The 70 arrests were made at Abu Tij, al-Ghana'im and al-Badari near here after a major swoop to find the killers.

The deputy interior minister for central Upper Egypt, General Mansur al-'Isawi, said four people were involved in the killing.

"Among the four extremists from (the two Islamic strongholds) Dayrut or Manfalut is Ahmad Zaki, al-Jama'ah chief in the village of al-Masarah" near Dayrut, he said.

Police suspect him of links to more than 20 "terrorist operations" against tourist buses and police in the Asyut region.

Fundamentalists Urge Foreigners To Leave

NC0603164093 Paris AFP in English 1610 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 6 (AFP) - A Muslim fundamentalist group which has attacked Egypt's tourism trade has now warned foreigners and Egyptians to stop investing in the country and urged foreigners to leave.

"Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (The Islamic Group) urges Egyptian, Arab and foreign investors to liquidate their investments in Egypt as quickly as possible," the group said in a statement faxed from Peshawar, Pakistan.

AFP obtained a copy of the statement Saturday [6 March].

"Confrontation will continue as long as the Egyptian regime continues to make war" on Islam, the statement said. It urged "all Arab and foreign countries to advise their citizens to leave Egypt."

"Bullets against bullets according to the law of retaliation," the group said, claiming responsibility for the assassination of a police officer and his son in southern Egypt Wednesday.

The officer "is responsible for the death of 20 young Muslims, killed (by police) during the last few months in Upper Egypt," it said. "Al-Jama'ah will never renounce revenge," and Interior Ministry policemen "will not escape God's punishment."

It called on the Egyptian Government "to put down its weapons before it is too late," and told President Husni Mubarak that "the souls concerned with martyrdom know no fear."

Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah has already claimed it carried out several attacks against tourists, although it said it targeted only the tourism industry and not the tourists themselves.

Tourism, one of Egypt's main source of foreign revenue and vital for the impoverished country, has dropped by at least 40 percent during the 1992-1993 season.

Mubarak Discusses U.S. Visit, Terrorism

NC0703105693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0838 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak said Egypt is holding contacts with the United States, Palestine, and Israel to resolve the Palestinian deportee issue and maintain the impetus of the Middle East peace talks.

Speaking at a National Democratic Party Political Club meeting last night, the president said the Hala'ib problem is not new; it appears whenever the Sudanese regime faces internal crises.

This information was passed on by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who said President Mubarak described the Sudanese as a fraternal, alert, and understanding people who are not influenced by these methods. He stressed that Egypt has spared no effort in helping the fraternal Sudanese people, adding that it does not intervene in the domestic affairs of any of its neighboring countries. President Mubarak added that Egypt respects political borders and will not give up national soil.

In reply to a question on the role of the Egyptian Armed Forces, Mubarak said the Egyptian Army supports our Arab nation's just issues and that it is a national army that gets involved only in principled issues in line with Egyptian values and principles.

Al-Sharif added that President Mubarak discussed his U.S. visit, scheduled for early April at the invitation of President Bill Clinton. The president said the United States is a country governed by policies and strategies, adding that the visit will be an opportunity to get acquainted with the new U.S. President. He said it will be a comprehensive visit during which political and economic talks will be held in addition to bilateral talks. Our relations with the United States are wide-ranging, he said. President Mubarak said during the visit he will meet with members of the legislative chambers of the Congress to explain Egypt's policies. He stressed that Egypt has importance and status in the region and policies in line with world changes.

The information minister said President Mubarak discussed the position taken by some Western media agencies and their focus on what happens in Egypt, in spite of the fact that terrorism is a world phenomenon, saying that terrorist activities abroad are taking place at higher rates than the individual acts that have taken place in Egypt. Mubarak said Western countries are facing large scale and organized terrorism and daily witness major terrorist actions. However, some Western media focus only on Egypt, forgetting what is taking place in their own countries. The president noted that the Western media's interest in what is happening in Egypt is due to Egypt's location and democracy and also due to the entire world's interest in what is taking place here.

The president said Egypt began its economic reform steps very early, thus sparing itself uncalculated skyrocketing increases in inflation rates and prices. President Mubarak stressed that economic reform was dictated by the inevitability of the economic situation at the time. There was no choice or alternative to the reforms; Egypt's economic conditions had become extremely difficult and economic deterioration had reached a level that threatened cooperation with the outside world and its economic establishments, he added.

Al-Sharif said Mubarak also discussed the stages through which Egypt passed to gain international backing for its economic reform policy. He explained that Egypt is now going through a transitional phase so as to achieve economic stability based on sound economic pillars and policies.

The information minister added that Mubarak emphasized that Egypt protects human rights, noting that a primary human right is defending the security and stability of millions of people and not allowing any one group to terrorize society, damage its interests, or kill its sons regardless of its intellectual or ideological claims. He stressed that such groups are completely unrelated to Islam, its tenets, or values.

The president said he regrets that any Egyptian, regardless of his education, would stoop in his thinking and behavior to the level of helping hurt his country's economy or shedding the blood of innocent sons of his people. He said tourism revenue has reached almost $4 billion annually because nearly 38 percent of tourists coming to the region come to Egypt. He added that the drop in tourism means a large percentage of manpower is facing unemployment, especially those working in tourist areas.

Al-Sharif added that President Mubarak stressed that Egypt enjoys a democratic system, that no newspapers have been confiscated, no custodianship has been imposed on any viewpoint, and no pen has been or will be silenced. He added that this is the most potent way to foil all attempts of the renegade groups, which believe they can incite society through rumors, hollow words, and perverted ideas. President Mubarak also said freedom, democracy, and adhering to true values are the best weapons to confront terrorism or impaired thinking.

The president discussed the law to protect democracy in professional associations, saying the first principle of democracy is to let the majority choose its representatives and that this choice should reflect the will of the majority. He stressed that there is nothing democratic about having a minority impose its custodianship on the majority.

Musa Receives Message From Russian Counterpart

NC0503150093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Russia's position on the recent developments in the Middle East. The message comes within the framework of the consultations and coordination between the two countries to push the peace process forward and solve the Palestinian deportees problem. The message was delivered by the Russian charge d'affaires in Cairo.

Russian Ambassador Gives Message to Musa

NC0703135193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has received a message from his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev, on the Middle East peace process. The message was conveyed by Russian Ambassador to Egypt Vladimir Polyakov during a meeting with Musa today.

Following the meeting, Polyakov said Kozyrev had highlighted in his message that Russia plays an active role in the Middle East peace process and that it appreciates the effective role Egypt is playing to move the peace process forward and safeguard regional peace and security.

The Russian ambassador reiterated his country's eagerness to maintain close contacts with Egypt and exchange views on the Middle East peace process.

Asked when the peace negotiations will be resumed, Polyakov said no date has been fixed, adding that the joint American-Russian statement issued in Geneva after the meeting between Kozyrev and his U.S. counterpart, Warren Christopher, emphasized that the peace process must be resumed in April.

Polyakov emphasized that all parties involved need to take part in the next round of talks. He said he hopes the ninth round of talks will achieve the desired peace.

The ambassador reiterated that his country supports the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 on returning the Palestinian deportees to their homes. He said Russia is willing to work to implement the seven-point plan put forward by Christopher during his visit to Israel.

Commenting on the Israeli blockade on the Gaza strip, Polyakov said the blockade violates Geneva agreements and human rights.

The ambassador touched on the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, saying his country backs the peace plan worked out by the two international mediators Vance and Owens, adding that the plan is a good basis for solving the problem. He reiterated, however, that Russia fully insists on the UN Security Council resolutions.

He denied that his country had supplied Serbs with weapons and oil.

Foreign Minister Responds

NC0703150493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that the message he received today from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev outlines the results of the contacts the Russian minister made to consolidate the peace process. Musa said he sent a message to Kozyrev about Egypt's views on the current status of the peace process and Egypt's efforts to enhance this process and resume the peace talks in April.

Speaking to reporters today, the foreign minister said the six points U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher presented still stand and that efforts are being made within this framework.

Musa noted that he will meet soon with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for consultations on the peace process.

He said the Palestinians seek to arrange a meeting as soon as possible among the five states directly concerned with the peace process. He added that contacts are under way to set a date for that meeting.

Musa said in his statements that the Foreign Ministry has received two reports from Washington and New York about the interrogations of the suspects held in connection with the World Trade Center explosion in New York.

Asked about Sudan's positive statements yesterday on efforts to restore normalcy between Egypt and Sudan, he replied that Sudan is dear to Egypt and that its people are more than brothers to the Egyptians. Therefore, he added, any invitation to restore things to normal between the two states must be sound. He pointed out that the Hala'ib committee will hold its next session after 'Id al-Fitr.

Musa said in his statements that the concept of pan-Arab security has changed in response to changing international and regional conditions and in order to cope with serious developments in the Arab world, such as the state of concern prevailing in the Gulf and other neighboring regions, as well as with the serious Arab-Israeli negotiations process. He remarked that this provides a good opportunity to discuss and reevaluate pan-Arab security. This is why Egypt has requested that the Arab League consider this matter, and we await the secretary general's report on the issue at the next ministerial council meeting in April, he said.

Musa Expresses Optimism About Mideast Dialogue

AU0803103593 Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 3 Mar 93 p 7

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Juergen Dietrich in Cairo; date not given: "We Cannot Desert the Palestinians"]

[Text] [Dietrich] Is the hope for a resumption of the Middle East talks in April realistic?

[Musa] At the moment we are still concerned about the Palestinians who were deported by Israel. In order to prepare the ground for the resumption of the talks, we are in close contact with the Israelis, the Americans, the Arab states, and, of course, the Palestinians. Egypt is of the opinion that the process has to be speeded up so that the deportees can return now and not just in September or at the end of the year. The proposals by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin contain elements, a mechanism, which might facilitate this.

[Dietrich] Is Egypt trying to achieve something in the same place where the U.S. secretary of state did not achieve a breakthrough during his latest Middle East trip?

[Musa] We have made it clear to the Israeli Government from the very beginning that, in our view, the deportations are an obstacle and will delay the peace process. It is Egypt's position that Israel must eliminate this obstacle. We are categorically against mass deportations. They violate international law.

[Dietrich] At the moment, however, it seems that Jerusalem is not willing to make any more concessions.

[Musa] This would be a disaster. In my view, the Israelis are honestly interested in peace. This will be shown when they sit with the Palestinians around one table next time.

Equally important are the Israeli-Syrian negotiations. These two tracks deserve our utmost attention—even though we are not neglecting the Lebanese and Jordanians. Only an all together approach can lead to the comprehensive solution for which we are striving. Every bit of progress counts, and if the Israelis and the Syrians make progress, this need not hinder the other talks. On the contrary.

The decisive point, however, is that we cannot desert the Palestinians. This would be a serious strategic mistake.

[Dietrich] But it is often said that the Syrians in particular might dare to engage in a solo action.

[Egypt] These are only rumors. The Arab negotiating partners and Egypt will soon discuss all questions in this connection. Then we will know the intentions of every individual state.

The Syrians are right when they say that the peace talks must be continued. This is also the Palestinian position. It is not true that they do not want to continue. But there have been and still are complications, above all in the negotiations themselves. So far, the Palestinians have not received any offers which they can live with, if you want to put it that way. And then there are the deportations. These are the clouds that are currently floating over the Palestinian participation in the next round.

[Dietrich] Would compromises concerning the deportations not be dangerous for the implementation of the fundamental UN resolutions on the Middle East conflict?

[Musa] In my view, one must keep these things separate. Compromises or flexibility in implementing UN Resolution 799 on the deported persons refer to the details but not to the fundamental right to return and the Israelis' obligation to facilitate this. Resolutions 242 and 338, on the other hand, deal with the core of the entire matter: withdrawal from the occupied territories, peace, and each country's right to secure and recognized borders.

There is a difference between resolutions on individual issues and those that are the basis for a regulation. One must not throw them together.

[Dietrich] How optimistic are you?

[Musa] I am quite optimistic. Things are moving in the right direction. Of course, I cannot say that the Arab-Israeli conflict will be solved in a few days. But if one sits down together with the intention of achieving something and corresponding signals come from the other side, then there is reason for optimism.

In addition, the general atmosphere in the region has changed. There are political forces in Israel which are urging peace with the Arabs and the Palestinians. A few years ago one could hardly have seen anything of that. The fact that the Knesset has abolished the ban on contacts with the PLO is also a change. This must now turn into progress at the negotiations. If we are not able to make progress in this matter this year, the process will suffer a serious setback, in my view. Therefore, I prefer to stick to "cautious optimism."

Foreign Minister Interviewed by AL-MUSAWWAR

NC0503202193 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1410 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—In its 5 March issue, the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR publishes a long and comprehensive interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The following is the text of the interview: [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] [passage omitted] We begin our dialogue by asking you how you view the current Arab situation. How do you compare the Arab situation with the regional and international situations?

[Musa] The situation in the Arab world is as bad as it can be. The regional situation also is very grave. The international situation is in a state of flux and has not yet settled on firm footing following the end of the old world order, which was based on the existence of two superpowers, the cold war, and rivalry and polarization between the two blocs. Suddenly, one of these two rival blocs had collapsed.

Therefore, I say we have not entered a new age. The term new age is being used simplistically. Therefore, I say we have not entered a new age, but that the circumstances around us have changed. We can call it a transitional period, which may last until the end of the nineties, after which things may settle down.

This places a very great responsibility on us. It is not fair that the world should be governed by one capital, or two capitals, or three or five capitals. The world is divided into regions with the presence of major powers that can reach any part of the world. This, however, does not prevent the presence of regional powers, which have their influence, existence, and an important role to play in achieving stability in the various parts of the world, whether in Latin America, Africa, the Arab world, Europe, or Asia.

Therefore, the world cannot follow the old system—two powers, then one power, and then three powers—if local and international democracy is to prevail. This makes it incumbent on us to be present to shape the new world order, which will be formed by the major states, leading regional states, states with cultural contributions to make, states which currently contribute, and states that will contribute in the future.

Egypt is not out of the picture. It is a regional state and has a role to play in a vast and diversified region. It has a role to play in the Arab world, the Islamic world, in Africa, Asia, the Third World, and the Mediterranean region. It has many assets that qualify it to play this key role in the current international phase. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Mr. Minister, who cares about the Middle East's stability? The Middle East in the eyes of some major states contains a limited amount of oil reserves. Is it true that the West is interested in the Middle East's stability? They speak about the Middle East and its stability, but in fact, they do little for its stability.

[Musa] This accusation is valid. The main parties interested in the Middle East's stability are the people of the Middle East, not the foreign powers. Because Egypt is the biggest state in the region, we have a primary interest in the Middle East's stability. With stability, we can embark on development and progress. With stability, we can gear the process of cooperation among the region's states and peoples toward the common interest. A lack of stability means we will enter into a showdown and devote all or most of our resources to destruction and not construction.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Mr. Minister, when do you expect this file to close in the manner you want?

[Musa] I say the file will be closed only in this way. If a just and fair settlement is not achieved, this file will not be closed.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is it possible that this generation will witness the closure of this file?

[Musa] It is possible, but I want to warn that there are certain parties who want to close this file in a certain way that does not necessarily satisfy all sides. I say that we in Egypt cannot consider this file closed until a just and fair settlement is achieved. Whoever thinks otherwise is wrong. Whoever works to eliminate the Palestinian issue is wrong. We are working to solve the Palestinian issue. Some parties are working to eliminate the Palestinian issue. The elimination of the Palestinian issue will be unsuccessful and lead to chaos. It might lead to a period of calm—one year, two years, three years, five years, or 10 years. Trouble will then start again because the file

has not been closed in a correct way, namely the right of self-determination for the Palestinians, the right of security for all, withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, and normal relations. In the absence of all these elements or one of them, there will be no settlement. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] There are other parties—the Americans can really exert influence on Israel. There is the Israeli position, its contradictions, and its lack of decisiveness in favor of peace. There also is the problem of the contradictions among the Palestinian groups themselves, at least since the emergence of a new force that adopts political Islam and thinks a solution at this time is undesirable. Are there perhaps other regional forces that are not interested in such a solution?

[Musa] [passage omitted] According to our observations and contacts so far, the Clinton administration takes a positive view of the peace process and is enthusiastically working to promote this process. This means it is interested, or believes in, or accepts the principle of land for peace.

The Palestinian groups are faced with an existing and ongoing peace process, which involves some obstacles. But this does not prevent it from moving forward. Therefore, it is not in the interest of any party to say that the peace process is rejected or undesirable. Developments have taken place in Israel, the Arab world, the United States, and in the world as a whole. All these developments seek one thing: the success of the peace process. This is because there is enthusiasm and support throughout the world for the peace process. There is an inclination to try and reorganize matters or solve several regional problems, from Cambodia to Afghanistan, the Western Sahara, Central America, South Africa, and Namibia. Why should the Palestinians be left out? Such an exception cannot be allowed, and we must work on this, and have indeed worked on it.

Our contacts with the previous U.S. Administration were based on this point. We told them that if you are talking about a solution to the problem of Cambodia or Afghanistan or some other country, we say we are sorry, but the problem of the Palestinians and the Middle East must be solved on a sound basis, which is land for peace, and nothing else is acceptable. Contacts also were held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. It was no coincidence that his first visit as secretary of state was to the Middle East, and to Egypt in particular. He came to us to talk about all these things. He listened to the views expressed by President Mubarak and myself and to the views we outlined at the news conferences. He was able to learn the direction and basis of our views. He ascertained that peace is an indivisible part of our outlook on the Middle East now and in the future. I concentrated on the peace process and its resumption. There was a certain cloud which overshadowed or is overshadowing this atmosphere, which is the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

Some movement has occurred in the deportees issue through efforts by the Israeli Government and other parties, led by Egypt. The Israeli Government's decision, in my view, is a step in the right direction. [passage omitted] Many Palestinians have been expelled since 1967, and they should all return. Why? Because this is the way to rebuild confidence. This is the way in which the Palestinian can feel he can coexist with the Israeli. We must, in my opinion, find a quick solution to the deportation problem. Instead of one step in the right direction, we should have two, three, until it is settled. If this happens, the resumption of the peace negotiations will be a definite thing in April.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] There were fears that in many of his statements during his election campaign, Clinton appeared to side with Israel and support the Israeli position, particularly with regard to Jerusalem. There also was concern about the priorities at home and abroad. Another concern was about the deficit and the ability of the U.S. economy to extend aid to other countries—and we are among the main recipients of such aid. Can we now say that the U.S. secretary of state's tour dispelled some of those fears? Can we say that we are confident that the U.S. Administration is enthusiastic about the peace process, gives it priority, adopts the same position as the Bush administration regarding the principle of land for peace, and really intends to play the role of a full partner?

[Musa] First, with regard to election statements, these end after the elections are over, and I do not want to attach to them the same importance as you do. [passage omitted]

Regarding the question of attending to domestic issues, Clinton was elected on this basis. But this does not mean disregarding foreign policy. The secretary of state's activities in Egypt or Europe and the NATO meeting and so forth is indicative of this. [passage omitted]

Regarding U.S. aid to Egypt, we must expect and take into consideration that it will be reduced at some stage in the near future. It will not happen this year or in the next few years, but in my opinion, it will happen. For this reason, the issue of economic reform is basic and important. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Have the Americans given us indications that they might reduce their aid in the coming few years?

[Musa] Not exactly, but the trend is clear. There has been much talk about the U.S. economic situation, and that it may not be able to accommodate such aid after two or three years. Therefore, we must try to depend on ourselves. If we succeed economically, we may not need such aid.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Do you expect the Clinton administration to reduce its economic aid?

[Musa] I think the Clinton administration might not do this in the coming four years.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Did Christopher's visit to Egypt constitute our first contact with the new U.S. Administration?

[Musa] No. There were earlier contacts. During the election campaign, we contacted several figures around the Democratic candidate. I met some of his men during the UN General Assembly session in October 1992. Dr. Usamah al-Baz also met several people there. There were also telephone conversations. President Mubarak telephoned President Clinton to congratulate him on his election. I also contacted Christopher by telephone but met him for the first time when he came to Egypt. I will meet him again in April.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Do you have any observations to make about U.S. State Department officials in charge of the Middle East issue?

[Musa] They form a group that has some experience of the Middle East. Some may have been Middle East theorists or people whose work was connected with the Middle East region. As I said, there has been a development in Israeli and Jewish political psychology. There has been a parallel development in Arab political psychology—to the point of believing that it is already time to negotiate and make peace. Those U.S. State Department officials are aware of this psychological development, which has affected us all. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Do you expect the Palestinian deportees issue to be settled by the time the peace negotiations resume in April?

[Musa] I expect things to begin moving rapidly toward a solution before April. We must also agree that there will be no more deportations and that the deportees should return to their homes soon.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Should we feel really optimistic that Israel will not resort to deportations again?

[Musa] Yes, I am somewhat optimistic.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] But Rabin has announced that deportations are a weapon that might still be used in future.

[Musa] Only theoretically. Things are different in practice. The most important thing in this experience is that Israel did not really know the consequences of deportations when it carried them out. I believe that the Israeli Government has learned the important lesson that it is not proper to return to such methods.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Amid the anger over the deportations in the West Bank and Gaza, do you believe the Palestinian delegation can go to the negotiations in April if nothing tangible is done to solve the problem?

[Musa] We hope something concrete will be done so that the Palestinian delegation can attend the talks. You must remember that negotiations are not merely for Israel's benefit. We must act early to relieve the West Bank and Gaza of their occupation. Certainly, the negotiations are more important to the Palestinians than any other party. They cannot negotiate under any old circumstances. Something must be done to solve the deportees issue.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] We notice that Egyptian diplomacy attaches much importance to Rabin's role, or at least appreciates it, despite more rockets hitting houses and more Palestinians being killed in Rabin's time than Shamir's. Never has there been such a mass deportation of Palestinians. What, then, are the reasons for the Egyptian Government's optimism about Rabin?

[Musa] This is all relative. Rabin has a greater wish to negotiate than Shamir. The law to decriminalize contacts with the PLO was passed while Rabin was in power. Settlement building was stopped during Rabin's term. Rabin's and the Labor Party's actions are different from Shamir's and the Likud's "stagnation". We must not forget that the recent Israeli elections put many members who support Palestinian rights into the Knesset. The ruling coalition includes several ministers who sympathize with the Palestinian cause. There is something more important: Shamir rejected any suggestion of a territorial aspect to the peace process. He used to speak of self-rule as applying to the residents, but not the territory. Today they speak of territory that must be returned to the Arabs and Palestinians. True, the Israelis do not go all the way—and we certainly have something to say about their territorial proposals—but they have come a long way since Shamir.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What do you have against the Israeli approach [al-tarh]?

[Musa] We have several misgivings. The Israeli's regional approach is incomplete and unacceptable from the legal and regional standpoints. But let us not get into details, because they concern the Palestinians. Our position is that the Israeli approach must make room for sound negotiations that could safeguard the rights of Palestinians and lead to coexistence between them and the Israelis, because they will be neighbors in any case. We want a framework to resolve, not liquidate, the Palestinian issue.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Does Egypt know the contents of a message from Clinton to Faysal al-Husayni?

[Musa] We have an idea about everything.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] A few days ago Israel expelled a Palestinian youngster. Surely this proves that Israel remains intransigent?

[MUSA] We are ascertaining Israel's position.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Does the United States back the Egyptian position?

[MUSA] Yes, because the Egyptian position was instrumental in pushing the issue of the deportees. Now we say that the Israelis must expedite this process. The Americans share that view. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] It is obvious that Rabin's expulsion measure has weakened the PLO politically and given leverage to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]; this leads us to the possibility of inter-Palestinian fragmentation between Hamas and the PLO. Given Rabin's determination not to take the deportees back—at least, not all of them—doesn't this imply an Israeli plan to drive a wedge between the PLO and Hamas or at least an attempt to break up the Palestinian position to prevent them from reaching a unified stand?

[Musa] From the start, the Palestinian position has not been clear or unified. There are many differences among them. But I do not acquit the Israelis of attempting to drive a wedge between Hamas and the PLO nor do I acquit the Palestinians of walking into this trap. They should have set a fundamental goal and not deviated from it, because the PLO has a known leadership and there is also a delegation negotiating in the name of the Palestinians. With circumstances so delicate, the Palestinians should have taken a unified stand with everyone behind them.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What interest does Rabin have in making Hamas, which rejects peace, the winning party in this crisis?

[Musa] I believe it was a political mistake by Rabin.

[Al-MUSAWWAR] Deliberate or accidental?

[Musa] I cannot say precisely, but everybody, including Hamas and the others, should have backed the peace march and endeavored to gain the rights of the Palestinian people, because pursuing slogans will never be of any benefit.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Could we say that Palestinian-U.S. relations have made some progress that could renew hope for reviving the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue?

[Musa] Tangible progress has been made in the U.S. meetings with the Palestinian negotiating delegation and Faysal al-Husayni. As for the PLO, there is nothing new.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Why do the Americans insist on not holding a dialogue with the PLO, especially as Israel has stopped incriminating those holding contacts with the PLO?

[Musa] The United States has its own views on this. For our part, we are now focusing on the deportees and on boosting the negotiations. As for the U.S.-PLO dialogue, it will come gradually; we are trying to contribute.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Why hasn't Egypt tried to secure an 'Arafat-Rabin meeting, especially as 'Arafat asked for one?

[Musa] But Rabin does not want that!

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What about Egypt's role?

[Musa] The time will come to secure this [meeting].

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Based on your negotiating experience with Rabin, how would you assess his character in the peace process?

[Musa] He is a very practical and precise man who knows what he wants. His main concern is Israel's security, just as my main concern is the rights of the Palestinian people. In his meeting here with President Mubarak, he was practical and clear. He knows that we too are practical, because the issue involves a tremendous amount of slogans; if we could set them aside, a solution would be possible.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are the objectives of President Mubarak's trip to the United States? What issues will be discussed and how important will the Palestinian issue be?

[Musa] It will be important, no doubt. Bilateral relations will be discussed; Egypt and the United States have common interests. The U.S. position on the Middle East peace process will also be discussed. We are interested in the Horn of Africa, Somalia, and security in the Gulf, too. In general, we feel there is a change in the U.S. view of the region following the end of the cold war, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the outbreak of the Gulf war.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Will they discuss the possible reduction of U.S. aid to Egypt?

[Musa] Although this issue does exist, it is not currently on the table. There is nothing, however, to prevent it from being part of the discussion.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are the prospects for bilateral relations?

[Musa] Relations are proceeding normally and there is a longstanding history of cooperation between the two countries. We take into account the importance of the United States as a superpower and they take into consideration the importance of Egypt as a regional power. Egyptian economic reform is proceeding well. A few days ago we signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Bank and an understanding will soon be reached with the IMF. The United States is aware of our economic reform measures and these things will be discussed with them. It is a very important issue, one that will top the list of the subjects to be discussed.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Will President Mubarak's activities include more than the meeting with Clinton?

[Musa] Arrangements are still being made.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] When Israeli Prime Minister Rabin came to power he promised the Palestinians self-rule within nine months, which raised Syrian concern at the

time. Now Rabin is surprising us with positive remarks about a settlement in the Golan Heights. This appears to be an attempt to put a carrot in front of the Syrians, which has aroused the concerns of the Palestinians. We are concerned that Rabin may be trying to cause a rift in Arab ranks and trigger a confusing race to see who will sign an agreement first. Given Arab sensitivities, and the fact that the Arabs are out of step with each other, is there a possibility that one Arab party may sign an agreement before another? What does the Egyptian side think about this?

[Musa] It is true that the Arab parties are out of step with each other, despite the existence of the five-party [Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the PLO] coordination process, because each is in a different set of circumstances and, perhaps, because of the extreme sensitivities harbored by some parties against the others.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Can't these sensitivities be ended if everybody agrees that peace must be comprehensive and that everybody must sign together?

[Musa] There is an agreement. But we have said that if there is progress on one track it should not cause bitterness in another party if there is no progress on their track. In the end, we are talking about and working for a comprehensive peace, which cannot be attained if Israel made an agreement with this or that party while excluding others, especially if the party left out is the Palestinians. This means going back to 4 June 1967, keeping the Palestinian issue the way it was and maintaining the causes of the dispute. What we want, in the end, is a peace process based on the Palestinian issue. This certainly does not diminish the importance of the Golan Heights, which is exactly like Sinai. Syria has known borders that Israel must withdraw to. There are security measures that could be agreed upon and which exist in several regions in the world. But it is unacceptable for security to be based on expansion or the occupation of the land of others. Israel is talking about a comprehensive peace, like the peace with Egypt, so let this comprehensive peace be in return for withdrawal. This is the core of the issue and negotiations must be based on this.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] At first the Israelis thought the Syrians were the most intransigent party to negotiate with. Now their is Israeli enthusiasm on reaching agreement with the Syrians. What happened?

[Musa] The world does not stay the same. There is change all the time.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Who changed, Syria or Israel?

[Musa] All have changed.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is the extent of the change in Syria and Israel?

[Musa] The Israelis understand that there must be total withdrawal, and Syria will take a single step forward unless there is an agreement for total withdrawal.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Has Rabin said anything in this regard?

[Musa] Not yet.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Where did the increased hope originate?

[Musa] It stems from the fact that discussions are continuing, and it is possible that an agreement will be reached on total withdrawal in return for peace. This, at least theoretically, is possible. The issue is more complex on the Palestinian track, because we are talking about Palestinian autonomy in a territory occupied since 1967. Israel has accepted the territorial aspect, but only in part. The Palestinians referred to this as "Swiss cheese." This is not right, especially when we talk about comprehensive peace—that is, withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. If some adjustments are necessary, they must not reflect the weight of the Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] There are reports about the possibility of convening a Syrian-Israeli-American summit meeting?

[Musa] I can neither confirm nor deny this. I have no information in this regard.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] The Clinton administration spoke about Syria in an unfriendly manner at first but then U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher went to Damascus. Was this a major development?

[Musa] Yes, it does represent a development, and we hope it will be in the right direction, because Syria really wants peace on a sound basis, as happened in Sinai.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Like Camp David?

[Musa] Syria is talking about land for peace, and the Camp David agreement was concluded on this basis.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] We are concerned about the lack of solidarity among the Arab parties and the race among them [to score some progress in the peace talks]. Is there a real possibility that Israel will attempt to exploit these differences?

[Musa] Such Arab sensitivities must end. It is Syria's right to make progress in its negotiations to get back the Golan Heights. It is also the Palestinians' right to complain that there has been no progress on their front. It is the duty of all of us to help the Palestinians in our contacts with Israel and the United States. In this way, ultimately, the peace we desire will be achieved and the Middle East file will be closed.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is it possible that part of the Israeli plan is to cause civil war between Hamas and the PLO?

[Musa] I hope this is not the case, because it is not in Israel's interest. If it happens, anarchy and conflict will erupt in the occupied areas, there will be no comprehensive settlement, and we will return to zero point.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] If the issue in the Golan is land for peace, then the two sides must have begun discussing the issue, or the security guarantees on both sides?

[Musa] No, this did not happen. But they must talk about these matters within the framework of Israel's acceptance of total withdrawal.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Did they discuss the deployment of international forces and early warning systems on the border between them?

[Musa] All these things are possibilities, and will happen if total withdrawal takes place.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Will Syria be asked to normalize its relations and exchange diplomatic representation before the Palestinian issue is resolved?

[Musa] I do not think so. This is a matter of details. We must see the tactical dimension together with the political aspect.

With regard to the Palestinian issue, we are talking about two stages: the first is a transitional stage of five years. The second stage is negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories, which will begin before the third year. This means moving from the status of occupation to the status self-rule before a final status is agreed upon. In this regard, we hope that the Syrian-Israeli negotiations will not last five years. If an agreement is reached on the future of the Golan Heights, the matter will need certain measures, while at the same time progress can be made on the Palestinian track and an acceptable Palestinian self-rule can be achieved. Thus we would have placed the Palestinian issue on the right track. If Israel agrees to withdraw from the Golan Heights, however, I cannot ask Syria to reject this.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] There is also the problem that 'Arafat is complaining about: the transitional period and the final talks to determine the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. 'Arafat is bitter because Israel has not yet said it will apply Resolution 242 to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[Musa] This matter is being dealt with now, and there will be a formulation that will take that into consideration.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] When?

[Musa] In the coming negotiations, of course.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Was Christopher only interested in the deportees' issue and the resumption of the negotiations or did he explore the positions of the various parties on the negotiations in general?

[Musa] On the contrary. He began by exploring the positions on the peace process, because the issue of the deportees is transient and the basic issue is the negotiations and peace.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Has Egypt received a U.S. evaluation of the parties positions from this visit?

[Musa] We have learned that Christopher received the support of the various capitals for the resumption of the peace process and that he sensed the importance of ending the deportees issue as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What kind of contacts have been made with Iraq?

[Musa] There have been no contacts of a particular nature. All contacts have occurred within reasonable bounds. When I was chairman of the Arab League session, it was necessary for me to meet with and listen to the head of the Iraqi delegation if he requested a meeting. Such meetings, however, occur within the Arab League and revolve on issues of interest to Iraq itself. We attempt to consider Iraqi requests and handle them within the Arab League.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Does Yasir 'Arafat play a role in these contacts? Is there a mediation?

[Musa] There is no mediation.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What was in the message 'Arafat brought from Iraq?

[Musa] The message voiced hope for new, different conditions in the Arab region and in Iraqi-Egyptian relations. This was not mediation but merely an expression of certain hopes. Our response was what I have just said.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Isn't it true that Egyptian diplomats will leave for Iraq and that we will raise the level of our diplomatic representation there? Is it true that an Egyptian diplomat will head the Egyptian Interests Section in Baghdad because tens of thousands of Egyptians work there and their interests must be handled. Has Iraq agreed to this?

[Musa] Yes, Iraq has agreed. Iraq has a diplomatic mission within the Arab League. Our move is no more than a boost for the Egyptian Interests Section in Iraq, designed to benefit the thousands of Egyptians who work there.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is your interpretation of Turkey's restoration of ties with Baghdad? Turkey was a main partner in the Western alliance against Iraq.

[Musa] Turkey and Iraq have a number of common problems involving Iraqi, Turkish, and Kurdish elements and common neighbors. The Turks decided they needed a Turkish charge d'affaires in Iraq. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Don't you feel that there has been something close to a deception in the fact that the Gulf

countries, who at first accepted the Damascus Declaration, are now evading both its [economic and security] parts under various pretexts?

[Musa] I do not think that they are evading commitments they have made. The problem is that the declaration itself was shaken by the lack of consistent action to implement it. This is why I described it as shaken and sickly. This is regrettable because the Damascus Declaration was the first inter-Arab document signed after the Iraq-Kuwait ordeal. It should have had more impact, particularly as it was based on the Joint Arab Defense Pact and the Arab League Charter. It is not isolated from other inter-Arab cooperation charters. The Damascus Declaration should have been accorded more attention and given a bigger chance to succeed. I share your concern about its fate, particularly if it continues to be stagnant. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Does Egypt agree to the implementation of the declaration's economic part and bilateral implementation of the security part?

[Musa] We have no objections.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Does Syria also agree?

[Musa] Syria also agrees to this. However, the necessary meetings have not been held yet. The Damascus Declaration process is moving too slowly and the possibility exists that some of the signatories are having second thoughts. This is the declaration's weak point and if it persists it will damage similar future charters.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How can we look forward to a definition of, or an agreement on, a unified concept of pan-Arab security if some Arab states will not agree to your appeal against signing the agreement on chemical weapons? Is it true that you appealed to the Arabs not to sign this agreement during an Arab foreign minister's meeting? What is the true story and what is Egypt's view on this matter?

[Musa] The story concerns our vision of security in the Middle East and the Arab region. Part of this security is a question of armament in the Middle East, in terms of size, quantity, and quality. This subject concerns the future. If we are talking about peace in the Middle East, Arab-Israeli peace, what is the need for this tremendous armament? The second question is: If we are talking about armament in terms of quantity and quality and if the world is talking about disarmament and arms reduction, why doesn't it apply to the Middle East? And if it does apply to the Middle East, why doesn't it apply fairly? Why is Israel given permission [to have these weapons], and I am talking here about Israel as a state in the region, not an "enemy" state, and as a neighboring country? Eyes must be wide open to Israel's progress in the field of armament. This is important to us and to approximately six other Arab states. Israel can reach anywhere in the Arab world with these weapons. We have explained our viewpoint on this issue. We said: You are asking us to sign an agreement banning chemical weapons. We are not against this agreement. On the contrary; our experts took part in studying and drafting the technical points of this agreement. They are now asking us to sign the agreement preventing the proliferation of chemical weapons, the same as they also asked us to sign the agreement for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Why don't they ask the same thing from Israel? When Egypt joined the agreement banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons, they told us that Israel would also join the agreement and added that if we join it, it will encourage Israel to joint it too, but we have not seen this result! There must be equality for all countries in the Middle East. We believe that, with peace, relations will be generalized. There will be no "enemy" facing another "enemy," just ordinary countries working for development and progress. So why is Israel allowed to make specific progress in nuclear and missile technology or in conventional weapons and to take part in the strategic defense initiatives while we are asked to join all arms limitation agreements? This is unacceptable. Here we must stop and say: Sorry, we will not sign this agreement. Several intensive contacts were held with us as well as with others. We said sorry, from President Mubarak down to the officials at various levels. We said sorry, we cannot do it because it is a matter that concerns Egyptian and pan-Arab national security. Either there is equal treatment or there will be refusal. We raised this issue at the Arab League and we agreed to take a unified stand. Then we met as heads of the Arab delegations in January, two days before the agreement was supposed to be signed. We discussed the matter frankly from all political, technical, and other angles. Some Arab states were of the opinion that "unfortunately," some Arabs states would sign it. Thus, these countries decided that they, "too," should sign the agreement. I said openly that Egypt would not sign the agreement, even if it were alone in doing so. We were backed in this by Syria and a number of other countries. A few countries insisted on signing the agreement and did actually sign it, along with the other world countries, on 13 January in Paris.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How many Arab countries signed the agreement at the beginning?

[Musa] Four countries signed and the majority abstained. It was a long session and I hope it was recorded because we spoke candidly and there were no different views. We responded to every argument. I believe we succeeded in conveying our message to the world: that the vast majority of Arab countries boycotted the signing ceremony in the face of foreign pressure and Egypt's convincing stand. The majority of Arab countries sided with Egypt at the signing ceremony that was attended by all foreign ministers of the world except us. They got the message. Israeli Foreign Minister Peres himself said: We will try to do something. He made this remark, however, with a future outlook in mind. I told him: I am sorry, but I do not deal with the future. I demanded that he speak of, and take, practical measures towards this future. I told him that when he takes these practical measures I will take measures: A step for a step.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Why did some Arab countries sign the agreement?

[Musa] Things did not reach this point. The Arab countries signed it individually in New York later. So far, half of the Arab countries have signed and half have not. We will absolutely not accept inequality in treatment regarding armament in the Middle East, it would lead to disaster.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Why did they sign the agreement? Were they embarrassed or scared by the West?

[Musa] There are several reasons, but I would rather not mention them.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Did Egypt come under pressure?

[Musa] Yes, Egypt came under pressure.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Has Egypt's refusal to sign the agreement affected Egyptian-U.S. relations?

[Musa] No, this issue put things in their proper perspective. We are friends. Egypt is a country with a regional status and has its own views on its national security . Egypt will uphold its views and, as I have said, differences of opinion are no problem. Similarly, in international relations, differences of views should not cause problems. We adopt a stand and it will remain valid as long as we deem it appropriate.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] In terms of military power and armaments, Israel has reached an extraordinary stage.

[Musa] I agree. This is why Egypt should not sign such agreements. As far as armament is concerned, Israel is being treated exceptionally—as if it is a power that must remain distinguished. This is an erroneous situation that we do not accept.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] But Egypt's stand is not merely declaration of rejection of this issue, it seems we are against this agreement.

[Musa] I am sorry. I said that I will not join this agreement. We prevented this issue from becoming universally approved not because I do not like it but because Israel prevented the nuclear agreement from becoming universal. The agreement banning chemical weapons is not international because the Arabs refused to sign it.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] The Egyptian stand on the United States' strategic agreements with Israel must be clear. What has Egypt done with the United States to limit this situation?

[Musa] Negotiations between us and the United States deal with all aspects of this issue, particularly Israeli nuclear armament. The United States and the West began moving in this direction. There is international concern over Israel's nuclear power to the point that Peres was forced to say they would join the disarmament agreements and that certain steps would be taken.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Can these issues be broached at the disarmament committee meeting?

[Musa] These issues were discussed during the meetings and are on the agenda of the committee meeting. We are doing what we can, but I cannot say that we will put pressure on the United States.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is there anything new in relations with Iran?

[Musa] There is nothing new as far as relations with Iran are concerned. We still believe that Iran is a Middle East state and we have historic relations with its people. It is not in the interest of either country to have a quarrel. In the meantime, everything should be crystal clear. We are opposed to a certain policy and will never accept it. However, the door is open to sound inter- state relations that take Arab, pan-Arab, and regional interests into consideration. This needs time, but we are open to cooperation. This cooperation must exist, but on solid bases that are free from intervention and threats to the collective pan-Arab structure.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Does Iran deal with the region from a religious fundamentalist perspective? Some say Iran, as a Shiite state, has nothing to do with the Sunnis and that it can only help Shiites in the south.

[Musa] Iran is an Islamic state with certain views that do not appeal to many states in the region. If you ask others you will find that many Arab states have complaints similar to those I talked about. However, it is better not to get into details as far as this issue is concerned. I can only say that there is nothing new. I want to emphasize the solid, historic relations we have had, not present fears and points of contention. I reiterate that the door is still open to sound and healthy relations based on solid foundations.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What came out of the negotiations held by the Egyptian delegation that went to Hala'ib?

[Musa] The results were not bad. The primary result is that negotiations will continue and the committee will meet again. We have no intention of getting involved in a clash or an escalation. What counts is for us to preserve the legal principle of the borders, not the facilities or resources granted in that connection. It is possible to reach an agreement on taking Parallel 22 as the border and making certain arrangements for the tribes residing in the region. There is no difference between an Egyptian and a Sudanese in the area.

Generally speaking, our relations with Sudan are experiencing considerable disturbance due to certain Sudanese policies. However, these differences of opinion should not ruin the historic Egyptian- Sudanese relations. These relations must be maintained; we should mend our fences, while preserving our lawful right to Parallel 22 and the arrangements made by the Interior

Minister. I personally believe that borderlines should not be a rigid issue when it comes to relations between two fraternal peoples.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is it fair to say that Parallel 22 exists, but Egypt does not object to making certain arrangements to facilitate tribal movement on both sides?

[Musa] It certainly is.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Will the Hala'ib issue be solved once and for all, by establishing that the area is fully Egyptian, or will it continue to be the subject of disputes like the Palestinian issue?

[Musa] The issue has reached its natural result: To grant the freedom of movement to Egyptian and Sudanese tribes in accordance with the agreed arrangements, without infringing on the established borders.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What about the Sudanese laws that are being applied in the region?

[Musa] Such details are up to the Hala'ib committee to discuss. Hala'ib is to continue in the form it has developed into. [sentence as published] I have read more than one article saying that Egypt is imposing a fait accompli on the area by drawing the borders or by maintaining troops or offices there.

It is wrong to use the term fait accompli—this is not imposing a fait accompli—rather it is restoring things to what they should be in Hala'ib. This does not conflict with the interests of the tribes and their movement.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Has Hala'ib been the core of the dispute between Egypt and Sudan or was it just another part of that dispute?

[Musa] It is part of the dispute. There are certain political differences between us and Sudan. The difference have to do with certain Sudanese policies which we do not approve of. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is there anything new in Libya's crisis with the West?

[Musa] So far, there has been nothing new.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Does the world insist on keeping up sanctions against Libya?

[Musa] So far, the sanctions are being enforced. No meetings or developments in the Security Council have taken place to change the situation.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Will there be any attempts soon to increase these sanctions?

[Musa] There is the possibility of a meeting of the Arab League's seven member committee to discuss this topic before the set date to review this issue. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What happened to our embassy in Somalia?

[Musa] We will soon be looking for other headquarters.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is the nature of the U.S. intervention [in Somalia], which started for humanitarian purposes? What interests does the United States have in the Horn of Africa? Is it really a humantarian mission? The parties automatically accepted the agreement on the first day.

[Musa] The situation in Somalia had reached a stage where it could not be rescued except through a large, immediate military effort. No one could do that except the United States. The strange, or new, thing is that on my way back from Addis Ababa a week ago, virtually all or most officials were asking the U.S. forces to stay. Otherwise, the situation will go back to what it was before. There was a desperate need to rescue Somalia and only one power could do that. Now, the United States wants to withdraw and the United Nations wants to take over with the same power and number of forces because the situation continues to be difficult. There are huge sensitivities in a country that has collapsed upon itself, not from external invasion or threats. The reason is the internal tribal rivalries.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Will we be sending troops to Somalia?

[Musa] Troops within the United Nations troops. This is subject to the future needs of the United Nations.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How does the world view the internal security situation in Egypt now? What is the role of Egyptian diplomacy in this regard?

[Musa] The crimes that are taking place in Egypt affect the image of the security situation, of course. There is no doubt about this; otherwise we would be fooling ourselves. What happened last Friday in al-Tahrir Square is a crime in all senses of the word. But what happens in London, also happens in Cairo, New York, and elsewhere. We do need tourism, however, and these events are causing great harm to Egypt. What is religion, and what makes one person kill two or three people he does not know? Why?

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is it true that the Foreign Ministry does not welcome the presence of Copts inside the diplomatic corps? This is the feeling we got from a Coptic family whose bright daughter sat for the diplomats examination recently, but failed to pass the test despite her intelligence.

[Musa] This is not possible at all. My answer to this question—despite the fact that I do not wish to appear as someone who defends the Foreign Ministry—is that I do not believe in this discrimination at all. The examinations are held with secret numbers, just like university examinations, and they are corrected at the university. The questions are set by university professors. In the latest examination for selecting diplomats, only 90 people passed out of the 900 who sat for the test. Even

the oral examination takes place in the presence of university professors, ranking journalists, ambassadors, and others.

In addition to all of this, when you look at the Foreign Ministry's organizational structure, you notice that there is no distinction between Copts and Muslims. In my office, there are a number of Coptic diplomats. They are there because they are qualified and I do not base my evaluation on the basis of religion. I base my selection on performance only. [passage omitted]

Arabs Asked To Safeguard Iraqi Nuclear Equipment

NC0603205893 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1916 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—AL-HAQIQAH, organ of the Liberal Party, carried the following front-page report today:

A report by the Arab Atomic Energy Commission says that Iraq has asked the Arab League secretary general and Arab leaders to safeguard scientific equipment and reactors connected with Iraq's nuclear program that the United States has failed to uncover. Iraq asked that they be moved to Egypt or any other Arab state and placed at the disposal of the Arab Atomic Energy Commission.

Meanwhile, at the symposium organized by a book society last Tuesday [2 March], Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, was asked about the visit of an Iraqi official to Egypt and the resumption of relations between the two countries. He replied that this will take place on the basis of a collective Arab decision and an Iraqi commitment to pursue a clear policy toward the Gulf states. Dr. al-Baz also accused the religious movements in the Arab states of hindering the peace process in the region. He affirmed that the Arab states have not contributed as necessary to the shaping of the new world order, thus making them lose their credibility in the eyes of the world.

Policeman Killed, Another Wounded in Aswan

NC0603145393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Aswan, 6 Mar (MENA)—A policeman from the Aswan Security Forces was shot dead and another policeman wounded when unidentified gunmen opened fire at them today. The two were standing guard at al-Ukhuwwah Church in the al-Barakah neighborhood of downtown Aswan. It is the first such incident to take place in the city. The culprits seized the two policemen's weapons and escaped. Security personnel have conducted a wide-scale search at the scene of the incident and in nearby areas for the culprits.

Policemen Ahmad Sabir Husayn, 20, and Muhammad Mahmud Muhammad, 23, both conscripts in the Aswan Security Forces, came under fire from unidentified gunmen. The first policeman was killed and the second shot in the stomach. He was taken to Aswan General Hospital for treatment.

Aswan prosecution officials have examined the scene of the incident and a criminal investigation team has been formed to look for the culprits.

Thirty Extremists Detained

NC0703194393 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1853 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Security agencies in Aswan are working intensely to apprehend the culprits who killed the guard at Khalas al-Nufus Church yesterday morning. They have arrested 30 members of extremist groups on suspicion of involvement in the incident.

Security forces launched several search operations in nearby areas. They found the dead guard's weapon near the scene of the crime in the Nabqah quarter of Bandar Aswan, but the perpetrators managed to flee with his companion's weapon. An AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY correspondent has learned that the security agencies have a lead that might help them apprehend the perpetrators within days.

Libya

Envoy on Readiness To Implement Lockerbie Decisions

LD0603135593 Rabat MAP in English 1315 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Tunis, Mar. 6 (MAP)—The Libyan position in the Lockerbie issue is based on the firm application of international law, the Montreal Convention and the decision of the International Court of Justice [ICJ], Libyan representative in Tunis 'Abd-al-Latif La'bidi said.

In an interview with Tunisian "ES-SAHAFA" daily, the Libyan official said his country is ready to implement the resolutions passed by The Hague-based International Court of Justice [ICJ] in charge of the Lockerbie dossier.

The Libyan diplomat declined to disclose the results of the Arab and international mediation between Tripoli and Washington, London and Paris.

Tunisia, acting chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union "UMA", La'bidi conceded, is continuing efforts to settle the Lockerbie issue.

Morocco

Foreign Minister on UNSC Sahara Resolution

LD0503234393 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali gave an interview to Moroccan Radio and Television after the UNSC passed Resolution No. 809 on arranging a referendum in our southern regions this year. In his statement he talked about the most important points which were contained in the resolution. Here is text of his statement:

[Correspondent] The UNSC issued a resolution two day ago concerning the arrangements for a referendum in our southern regions. What is your comment on this new resolution?

[Filali] We believe that this resolution has come at an appropriate time, because many people were waiting for it. It is known to all that the UN secretary general submitted his report at the end of January or precisely on 22 January. [passage omitted]

Naturally, there had been some effort on the part of the UNSC members, and naturally they were in constant touch with us and with our permanent delegate at the UN who happened to preside over the UNSC. The truth is that there had been different views. I believe that it is my duty to go back somewhat. It is that in his report, since he took over the post of secretary general in February 1992, in his first report, Mr Butrus Ghali gave his viewpoints on his contacts and also those of the personal envoy, with the parties concerned. [passage omitted]

He referred to the deadlock and that he had his doubts about arranging a referendum at the earliest opportunity. This naturally did not satisfy us because since 1990 we accepted the principles or the plans of the UN secretary general, which were accepted by the UNSC to arrive at peaceful solutions in the area and to arrange a referendum at the earliest time possible. Therefore, we expressed a view, namely that it is imperative that we proceed with the work that had been decided in 1990 and to try and arrange this referendum so that we can end this problem internationally.

France and Great Britain came up with a draft resolution at the UNSC to rescue the situation. I believe that it is our duty to praise and acknowledge this effort on the part of France and Great Britain and to thank them for their firm stand with regard to the aim which is sought by all, namely to arrive at arranging a referendum at the end of this year. In their draft resolution the date was set for the end of October 1993.

Naturally, the UNSC has a schedule, and there have been contacts at the level of the permanent UNSC members or the whole council at unofficial meetings. The work tradition of the UNSC is that whenever possible a unanimous decision is arrived at before adopting a resolution. All had endeavored—and we also endeavored with them—to reach an agreement which satisfies everyone, naturally by introducing some partial amendments to this draft resolution.

Thus, Resolution 809 has been adopted. I believe it is necessary that the citizens should know what the resolution deals with and what its tasks are.

I believe there are three main points in this UN resolution: 1. The resolution reaffirms the plan adopted in 1990 as a basis to solve this problem. Unfortunately, some adversaries have been endeavoring to thwart this plan. 2. The UN Council stressed that it was not qualified or was not in a position to discuss what has been termed as criteria. The UNSC believed that the issue of the criteria fell within the responsibility of the UN secretary general, who is fully empowered to take whatever decision he likes in this respect.

As you know, the secretary general, in the resolution adopted on 31 December 1991, welcomed the decision made by Mr. Perez de Cuellar concerning the criteria because he considered that decision as a reasonable basis for monitoring the referendum and for reaching a solution regarding the identity of those taking part in this referendum.

It is also common knowledge that Mr. Butrus Ghali reaffirmed this principle. He considered that he could not alter these criteria without the approval of the parties concerned. So, what is Morocco's position concerning the issue of the criteria? This point must be clarified to the Moroccan public once and for all. As regards the identity of those taking part in the referendum who come from the Saharan regions or what is called the western Sahara, we have taken a position which we expressed in an official letter to the former UN secretary general.

Naturally, Morocco's position on this point was not taken completely into account. The decision made by Mr. Perez de Cuellar with regard to the criteria was adopted but [as heard] we approved this principle and this resolution for one reason: to reach a compromise to enable the secretary general and the UNSC, with the support of the secretary general, to reach solutions which satisfy everybody.

So, we accepted those criteria. Therefore, we have no problem now with the secretary general, his personal representative, or the Security Council because this new Resolution 809 stated that it was one of the secretary general's prerogatives to make a decision with regard to the criteria. He then made this decision and we approved it despite the fact that it did not reflect all our positions in this respect.

So, when the Security Council tells the secretary general, in this resolution, to try until the end of May to solve this basic problem, we believe that his role is to negotiate with the other side to persuade it to return to what we

can call the right path and to accept the proposals of the secretary general and the criteria upon which he has decided.

The third point of this resolution is important. If the previous Franco-English plan envisaged holding a referendum at the end of October of this year, now the UNSC expressed its desire that this referendum take place before the end of this year without mentioning either October or any other month of this year.

In our opinion, this is a partial amendment; first of all, it has now become possible to hold a referendum before October, and in any case, before the end of this year. Therefore, this also translates one of Morocco's firm stances; it is immaterial whether it is October or any month, but the main thing is to hold a referendum as soon as possible. We cannot sustain the same position forever, in view of the fact that we have been experiencing this problem for the past 18 years. When we voiced our agreement regarding the UN plan to solve this problem, our desire and the hope of all Moroccans were that this problem could be solved as soon as possible.

Therefore, we believe that this resolution in itself is a positive one. It also satisfies a great number of Morocco's legitimate and reasonable demands. It also satisfies the wise policy as pursued by His Majesty in this connection since the start; and the flexibility that we have shown regarding this problem be it within or outside the framework of the UNSC. Hence, we believe that it is now time that everyone shouldered his responsibility. The UN secretary general, who will oversee the implementation of this resolution, which has become clear in its scope, has become aware of the goal to which we aspire: the convocation of the referendum before the end of this year. I said that the UN secretary general, who will take charge of this problem, should also assume the responsibility for dealing with the other problems which are still facing him. We reckon that after fifteen months, since he assumed his duties as secretary general, we believe and hope that it is high time he visited our region. We used to think that the situation experienced by the UN since the beginning of 1992 made it difficult for him to visit our region. However, now that there is a significant resolution from the UNSC regarding the final solution to Morocco's southern regions, we believe that it is necessary for him to visit our region and conduct dialogue with high-ranking officials.

He cannot deal with this situation, or this problem or implement this resolution without having a direct contact with the appropriate officials. We also hope that brother Butrus Ghali would carry out this visit as soon as possible. He has been aware of our stances for a long time, since the days when he used to be an official in the Egyptian Government. He is aware of the realistic Moroccan policy; he is aware of the maturity which we always have applied regarding this problem. However, I believe that now it has become his duty to carry out this visit so that he can see for himself Morocco's firm positions concerning this problem. Thank you.

Kuwait

Kuwait Rejects Qatari Mediation With Iraq

PM0503152293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Mar 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Kuwait Rejects Mediation for Normalization of Relations With Iraq"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait, AL-HAYAH—Arab diplomatic sources have revealed that Kuwait has, as a matter of principle, rejected any mediation for the normalization of its relations with the Iraqi regime and any Iraqi offer in that respect.

The sources said that that position was expressed in a message sent on 17 February by Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah to Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, delivered by Kuwait's Ambassador in Doha Muhammad Ahmad al-Rumi.

They added that Iraqi Ambassador to Qatar Anwar Sabri 'Abd-al-Razzaq had delivered a message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to the Qatari foreign minister containing an offer for Kuwait, to be conveyed by Qatar, calling for the normalization of Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations, the lifting of the economic blockade against Iraq, discussions of the question of the Kuwaiti POW's and missing persons held by the Iraqi regime, and subsequent normalization of inter-Arab relations.

The sources said that the Qataris stressed to the Iraqis that they would not undertake such mediation unless Iraq agreed to implement all the UN resolutions passed against it during the Gulf war and unless Kuwait accepted the mediation idea.

According to Kuwaiti parliamentary sources, the Kuwaiti Government refused even to discuss the mediation idea. In its reply, it said that the issue was not between Iraq and Kuwait but between Iraq and the international community which passed 13 resolutions and insist on their implementation. [passage omitted]

Border Skirmishes With Iraq Reported

NC0503161593 Paris AFP in English 1458 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Kuwait City, March 5 (AFP) - Kuwaiti security forces and Iraqis exchanged gunfire this week along their desert border, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported Friday.

Iraqis started the shooting Wednesday near the al-'Abdali border post, and Kuwaiti forces fired back, the AL-ANBA Daily said, adding that Iraqis later fired intermittently on nearby Kuwaiti farms. There were no reports of casualties.

The report could not be confirmed by 'Abd-al-Latif Kabbaj, the spokesman for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), which surveys the demilitarized zone between the two countries.

In January, hundreds of Iraqis crossed the border to recover military equipment left in the zone. No one was hurt, but the raids contributed to tension that led to allied military strikes on Iraq.

On February 6, Kuwaiti police also arrested five Iraqis who reportedly tried to infiltrate into Kuwait.

Baghdad does not recognize the new post-Gulf war border drawn up by the United Nations.

Iraqi Kurdish Leader Talabani Begins Visit

LD0803134793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1249 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Mar (KUNA)—Jalal al-Talabani, leader of the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], arrived here this afternoon on an official two-day visit at the invitation of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister.

Amir Receives Djibouti Prime Minister, Delegation

LD0603192993 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Excerpts] At 1200 today his highness the amir received His Excellency Barkat Gourad Hamadou, the prime minister of the sisterly Republic of Djibouti, and the delegation accompanying him. The Djibouti prime minister handed his highness, may God safeguard him, a message from his brother President Hassan Gouled of the Republic of Djibouti. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Hamadou arrived in Kuwait at 1130 today for an official visit. [passage omitted]

Poll Reveals Security Fears of Population

LD0503142393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Figures as received]

[Excerpts] Kuwait City, 5 Mar (KUNA)—[passage omitted: Kuwaitis have been concerned about security ever since the Iraqis rolled into Kuwait]

An opinion poll conducted by the KUNA Research Center showed that 55.7 percent of the people polled thought that the security situation in Kuwait was relatively stable, while 37.2 percent thought it was not.

While 37.8 percent thought that the Iraqi regime was still capable of carrying out a new aggression against Kuwait, 30.6 percent thought it was not, and 22.5 percent thought it was, but only to a certain extent.

Due to such concerns, 82 percent of those polled were in favor of defense agreements concluded by Kuwait with foreign countries, 17 percent said that they were, but only to a certain extent, while 9.9 percent said they were against; 0.9 percent said they did not know.

As to whether the presence of foreign forces along the Kuwait- Iraq border guaranteed the security of Kuwait, 47.8 percent said yes, 31.5 percent said only to a limited degree, while 16.2 percent said it did not.

While 43.2 percent said they rejected substituting an international force for U.S. forces, according to UN Security Council Resolution 807, 35 percent said they were in favor, 13.5 percent said they were in favor only to a certain extent, and 0.7 percent said they did not know.

As for the presence of an Arab force on Kuwaiti territory, 64.87 percent said they were opposed to it, while only 16 percent said they were in favor and 14.4 percent said they were in favor, but to a limited extent only.

Of those polled, 66.66 percent said the current system of conscription did not contribute to guaranteeing the security of Kuwait, while only 5.4 percent said it did, and 24.4 percent said it did but only to a certain extent.

Concerning current military cooperation in the Gulf and whether it contributed to the security of Kuwait, 37.8 percent said it did not, 18 percent said it did, while 41.4 percent said it did but to a limited extent only. However, 23.96 percent thought that developing Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] military cooperation would guarantee security for GCC countries, Kuwait included, while 27 percent said it would only guarantee security in the Gulf to a certain extent; 2.7 percent said they did not know. [passage omitted: background to Kuwaiti feeling of insecurity]

Saudi Arabia

Projected Government Spending on Oil Industry Viewed

LD0603152793 Riyadh SPA in English 1217 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Riyadh, March 6, SPA—The state-owned companies will spend between 25 billion dollars and 30 billion dollars in the next decade in raising Saudi Arabia's capacity of producing oil, according to a senior Chamber of Commerce official.

Though government spending will decline in the coming years after the completion of the infrastructure, the next five years are likely to involve more government spending on the oil sector.

This will be through Saudi Aramco and Samarec, 'Abdallah Dabbagh, the former secretary general of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce said. He points out that Sabic and Samarec will together spend between 5 billion dollars and 9 billion dollars on the production and marketing of petrochemicals.

The non-oil sector, on the other hand, which is mainly made up of private sector companies, is growing fast, Dabbagh was quoted as saying in the latest technical review journal. For the first time, the private sector is likely to exceed the oil sector in its net contribution to the gross domestic product, he said.

The oil sector, Dabbagh said will however, remain the main stay of the Saudi economy, judging by the ambitious projects in the pipeline and the awesome spending power it has at its disposal.

He pointed out that Saudi Petroleum Company, an offshoot joint stock company between Aramco and the private sector, had negotiated an acquisition of [figure indistinct] per cent of the assets of the US Petrofina, valued at 500 million dollars.

This investment will lead to Saudi investment in running two refineries with a capacity of 210,000 barrels a day, a 1,500 km pgpeline and 3,000 petrol stations located in 20 U.S. states. A letter of intent has already signed for that project which offers Saudi partners all the technical patents for producing sophisticated petrochemicals, including MTBE, Dabbagh told the journal.

Spokesman Reacts To Reported Attempt on Saddam's Life

JN0703163293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Citing sources in occupied Palestine, the London newspaper THE SUNDAY TIMES today said that five Zionist soldiers from a secret military unit were killed by a missile during training on what the sources described as an attempt against the life of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him.

THE SUNDAY TIMES said that six other Zionist soldiers were injured in the incident which occurred at a military base in the Negev desert on 5 November 1992 in the presence of senior Zionist officers who were supervising the training of this secret unit.

The Zionist sources said that after the incident, the Zionist Ministry of Defense and Zionist intelligence tried to cover up the incident and disseminated reports that the training was in preparation for the assassination of a Hizballah official in Lebanon. The sources noted that the Zionist Defense Ministry and intelligence officials obtained information channeled to them that the U.S. Administration collected by the U-2 planes which penetrate the Iraqi airspace under the pretext of assisting the inspection committees.

Commenting on the report, an information spokesman in Baghdad said: Iraq exposed the flights of the U.S. U-2 survey and reconnaissance planes from the beginning and affirmed in dozens of memos to Mr. Butrus-Ghali, the UN secretary general, that these planes were brought in to spy on Iraq and to promote the hostile intentions of the U.S. Administration under the cover of the United Nations and that THE SUNDAY TIMES report today and reports by other papers on the same topic yesterday affirm this fact.

As for the killing and injuring of the 11 Zionist soldiers in the criminal and sinful attempt, the spokesman said: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Then they sought a stratagem against him, but we made them the ones that lost most. [Koranic verse]

Papers Denounce Reported Attempt

JN0803112093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0738 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA)—Iraqi newspapers have vehemently denounced the exposure by a London-based newspaper of a criminal, sinful, Zionist attempt on President Saddam Husayn's life.

In their editorials today, all papers say that the Iraqis will continue to protect President Saddam Husayn with all that is dear to them and that he will remain Iraq's fluttering banner and a bright historic chapter in the lives of both Iraq and the nation.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The Iraqi people continue to daily express, in words and deeds, their determination to adhere to Saddam Husayn as the leader of their struggle and construction and as a symbol of their steadfastness, dignity, and unity and also as a high banner for their national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian policies. AL-THAWRAH notes the enemies' total despair of any possibility to undermine the close relationship between the Iraqi people and their historic leader, saying that these enemies have used every hostile and conspiratorial means and way but remain unable to achieve any of their malicious, evil, hostile objectives. The paper affirms that the Iraqi people will remain convinced of and adherent to their leader despite all that happened. Such adherence cannot take place elsewhere in the world, the paper adds.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, says: We were not surprised at the cawing of the crows because we have long been familiar with it. This cawing used to coincide with the growing march of the revolution. Moreover, the Iraqis learned about their own genuine essence when they identified themselves with their symbolic leader Saddam Husayn in terms of his good characteristics as well as his historic leadership's expression of their legitimate hopes and aspirations. The paper wonders: Where are all those who plotted against Iraq and against the leadership of the knight Saddam Husayn? Where are those, whether alive or dead, who launched successive attacks on Iraq? Where are Khomeyni, Bush, Thatcher, and Gorbachev? Where is the echo of the black crows' cawing? This echo has faded amid the cries of right in the immortal Mother of Battles.

AL-QADISIYAH discusses THE SUNDAY TIMES report, which cited sources in the occupied territories as announcing the death of five Zionists while rehearsing an attempt on the president's life based on information leaked by the U.S. Administration via the U-2 aircraft which violate Iraqi airspace. The paper stresses that the malice of the failed ones has returned to them, that they have exposed themselves, and that they are once again labeled with disgrace because they have lost all rounds of the conflict. Leader Saddam Husayn will continue to be Iraq's fluttering banner. Let the Iraqis, the Arabs, the Muslims, and all the world's free men take pride in their historic victory in the most sacred encounter between the forces of faith, right, and guidance and the forces of injustice, polytheism, and deviation.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that the camp of atheism, injustice, and terrorism is living in constant panic, continued chaos, and unlimited fear as it sees President Saddam Husayn leading the Iraqi and Arab masses from one victory to another. The paper affirms that THE SUNDAY TIMES report exposes to the whole world the abyss into which both U.S. imperialism and world Zionism have fallen as well as the extent of their disregard of values and norms. AL-'IRAQ says: We in Iraq do not pay attention to such mean attempts because we are

a people who believe in their leader Saddam Husayn and who are immune to all schemes and intrigues. Throughout a quarter of a century, we have become acquainted with all forms of plots designed to undermine the revolution and its leader. However, these plots have met with failure and frustration, the paper adds.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: It is strange that the United Nations is still acting as a cover for the alleged legitimacy of the U.S. U-2 planes' continued work. These planes still violate Iraqi airspace on the pretext of assisting the inspection committees while in fact they provide espionage information to the Zionists and to others in the U.S. intelligence services. The paper stresses that this not only represents Iraq's stand and that these planes' scandals and violations of Iraqi airspace [sentence incomplete as received]

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The Tel Aviv military and intelligence officers and all those who supply them with espionage information should know that these genuine people will protect Saddam Husayn with all that is dear to them.

Attack 'Last Week'on Regime Forces Reported

NC0503163593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] According to our sources inside Iraq, Islamic resistance forces at the beginning of last week launched a lightning attack on tyrant Saddam's forces in the al-Islah area of al-Nasiriyah [Dhi Qar] Governorate. The mujahidin used mortars and other medium- and small-caliber weapons in their heroic operation. They inflicted severe losses on the forces of the defeated regime, killing 30, including three officers, and wounding dozens of others. They destroyed three vehicles and set fire to a BTR-60 vehicle.

Our heroic mujahidin also destroyed a quantity of the regime's ammunition.

'Cliques of Treason' Storm Trade Union Building

JN0703203193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1948 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Dahuk, northern Iraq, 7 Mar (INA)—Elements from the cliques of treason affiliated with the so-called Kurdistan parties front have stormed the trade unions' building in Dahuk Governorate in northern Iraq and seized its contents and furniture.

The trade unions' office in Dahuk Governorate issued a statement saying that these agent elements have disrupted the current bodies, which were elected in a sound democratic manner and in accordance with the observed bases during the ninth electoral round.

The union's statement pointed out that the failed cliques have formed a new union of agent elements which have nothing to do with the labor movement and that they have done this to entrench the foreigner's control of living facilities in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

The governorate's trade unions described this action as an illegitimate and illegal one, which occurred while the electoral round was still going on and while the trade unions were playing their role in a natural way and far from any interference in their affairs by any side that has no connection with the work of the trade unions.

Mosque Imam Reportedly Assassinated 26 Feb

JN0703163993 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Mar 93 p 1

[By AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region]

[Text] Treacherous and agent hands assassinated Shaykh Tiqur Fattah, imam and preacher of the Grand Mosque in Halabjah District, after Friday prayers last week [26 February]. A responsible source at the Awqaf Directorate of al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate said that the 57-year old preacher Tiqur Fattah denounced the U.S.-Zionist presence in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region in his Friday sermon before he was assassinated. Furthermore, the source added, Shaykh Tiqur had also urged Muslims in Iraqi Kurdistan in his Friday sermon to rid themselves of the agent and intrusive elements living in the midst of the Kurdish people.

The source noted that the revered preacher was a free voice heeded by Muslims not only in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, but also in the entire Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

Oil Ministry Cited on Lost Revenues Due to Blockade

JN0803085693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0722 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA)—Until 1992, Iraq sustained $55.69 billion in material losses due to halting its oil exports as a result of the economic blockade. Citing an Oil Ministry source, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today says that Iraq's crude oil production capacity before the 30-state aggression totaled 3.25 million barrels per day [bpd].

The source explained that prior to the aggression domestic oil consumption through feeding the country's oil refineries and using their oil products totaled approximately 500,000 bpd. The surplus production, amounting to 2.75 million bpd, was exported to world markets via the export outlets, the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline, the Iraqi pipeline across Saudi Arabia, and the al-Bakr Port. The source added that the Ministry's oil installations sustained 30-100 percent damage as a result of the U.S.-Atlantic aggression, which greatly reduced the production capacity of these installations, reaching zero in some of them.

Opposition Claims Regime Repositioning Artillery

NC0403202793 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Iraqi opposition forces today said the Iraqi regime has started to create special units from the army and police to carry out repressive operations against Iraqi citizens in southern Iraq. The regime has placed its troops on maximum alert for fear of an expansion of resistance against it. In an exclusive statement to a radio correspondent in Vienna, the Iraqi opposition forces said they had received an urgent report from their sources inside Iraq. The report indicates that the national resistance fighters in southern Iraq have noticed that the Iraqi regime is repositioning its heavy artillery in the marshlands to escape detection by the allied aircraft. The regime's henchmen, disguised in civilian uniforms, are deployed among the inhabitants of the region in preparation for committing massacres against the inhabitants.

Regime Forces in South No-Fly Zone on 'Alert'

NC0503154093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Reports from Iraq say the forces of the outcast regime currently are engaged in large-scale movements and preparations in the no-fly zone south of the 32d parallel. Iraqi opposition sources say the regime of tyrant Saddam placed all its military, oppressive, and party forces in the south, particularly in the marshlands, on a state of alert. The sources said the regime issued strict orders to the commanders of its military units to accelerate the formation of elite forces to carry out special missions throughout the marshlands.

The sources said that they monitored military vehicles repositioning large-caliber artillery around the marshlands, and that they received documented information that the regime's engineers intend to create gaps in the earthen dams around the marshlands in case observers or international journalists tour the region.

The opposition sources said regime agencies in al-Basrah, al- 'Amarah, and al-Nasiriyah Governorates were instructed to mobilize partisans, security agents, and primary school pupils to stage demonstrations in support of dictator Saddam.

Airspace Violations Reported to Arab League

JN0703134793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League of the continued violation of its airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, thus posing a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League noted that on 3 March, these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace, mounting 58 aggressive air sorties. Iraq's representative enclosed with his letter a list detailing those violations and requested that it be distributed among all Arab states to inform them of these regrettable facts.

U.S. Urged To Respond to 'Peace Calls'

JN0603140493 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 6, INA—AL-'IRAQ daily of Baghdad today urged U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration to deal with and respond to Iraq's peace calls and its sincere desire for normalizing the relations with the United States of America.

The daily editorial has described President Saddam Husayn's talk to the American journalist John Albert, screened on Thursday, as a new Iraqi peace message and initiative that should receive attention if the other party wanted to inaugurate a new chapter in the bilateral ties. President Saddam Husayn had expressed during the interview his welcome that an opportunity could be realised for creating diplomatic channels between Baghdad and Washington for exchanging dialogue with President Clinton by ordinary ways, not via press and media campaigns, as was the case during Bush's tenure.

President Husayn has also expressed hope that President Clinton would fulfill what he has committed himself to during his elections campaign towards the world, and asked all to help him so that this thing is realised.

President Saddam Husayn has refused to describe the United States, under President Clinton, as seminary of evil, as it was during the former President Bush's administration, and said "I do not want to use this description on the United States under the new President but when I become sure that this case is characterised by continuation of what had been designed in the past."

AL-'IRAQ daily has said that out of "our belief in just peace and keenness on security and stability established in our country, the region and the entire world, we are looking forward to Clinton's administration to dealing in a positive spirit with the Iraqi initiatives and rid itself of all rancours and ill intentions inherited from Bush's administration."

The daily expressed hope that U.S. press and mass media would play an unshakable and responsible role for the service of those objectives and peoples of the two countries, and to keep away from language of instigation and ignoring the facts.

It has reminded the role of these media during Bush's administration, who managed to launch a campaign of hostility against the people of Iraq and its leadership, reverse the facts and preventing the American from seeing facts on both political and military arenas.

UN Arms Inspector on Nuclear Program

NC0703152593 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, March 7 (AFP) - Iraq has the expertise to restart its dismantled nuclear programme unless the United Nations secures a list of its foreign suppliers, a UN arms inspection chief warned here Sunday.

"The brains are there. They have good engineers and they have the machine tools to be able to start things again," said Dhimitrios Perrikos, head of a nuclear team which arrived Wednesday.

"This is why we're trying to find enough information so that we can base our long-term monitoring, because without it anything may happen," the Greek inspection chief told reporters.

"The people who have supplied the information and sensitive equipment... are still in place. You can bet there will be some who are going to sell their things," he said. "And definitely, there will be people here who will be tempted to buy."

Perrikos acknowledged Iraqi officials had given assurances Baghdad would not attempt to relaunch its nuclear programme, but he said the only guarantee was the disclosure of the full list of suppliers and long-term UN monitoring. [passage omitted on background material]

Iran Said Running New Courses in Terror Export

JN0703165193 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Mar 93 pp 1, 2

[By Zamil Ghannam]

[Text] Baghdad—The Iranian regime recently started new 10- day training courses for agents brought in to Tehran from various countries to receive instruction in the export and techniques of terror. In statements to an AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent yesterday, an official Mojahedin-e Khalq spokesman explained that the lectures were about the spread and export of terror, training new terrorists at Sadiq camp for them to be then secretly dispatched to their home countries to execute criminal assignments planned for them by Iranian authorities. The terrorists involved in the assassination of Iranian dissident Qorbani had received training at al-Quds Complex in Qom, where agents from various countries spend a stint of two to three months for theoretical and field training in terror tactics. They are then transferred to a training center on the outskirts of Qom.

Citing authoritative information from within Iran, the source adds that a Mohammad Ibrahim Taheryan directs assassinations in Turkey and commands a 5,000-strong special al-Quds forces corps assigned the task of exporting terror to Turkey. Taheryan, adds the source, is a member on an Iranian team of experts conducting negotiations with Turkish authorities to coordinate moves against Tehran's opponents based in Turkey. He visited Istanbul on 5 October 1992 and communicated the plan of assassinating Turkish writer Aghor Momjo [name as published] to his operatives there. The head of the Iranian regime, Rafsanjani, according to the source, has lately resorted to fabrications and lies after he failed to prove Tehran's noninvolvement in worldwide crimes. The source indicates that, Taheryan, at the same time, gathers together most of the terror groups in Tehran to coordinate their activities and disseminate and export terror.

Turkish Charge Cited on Blockade, 'Brotherly Relations'

JN0703104693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)—Sadi Calislar, Turkish charge d'affaires in Baghdad, has said that the Turkish people are deeply moved by the suffering of Iraqi children, women, and elderly as a result of the continued economic blockade imposed on the people of Iraq.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published here today on the occasion of reopening the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad and on his appointment as charge d'affaires at the embassy, Calislar said that Turkey has been affected by the economic blockade imposed on Iraq. He explained that the Turkish trade and economy have been affected by this continued blockade.

He added that Turkey is doing all it can to bring this blockade to an end as soon as possible, and that Turkey is ready to extend all kinds of assistance to Iraq in various fields.

Calislar affirmed that the Turkish Government has decided to reopen its embassy in Baghdad in order to promote relations between the two neighboring countries. He noted that efforts will be made to promote these relations in the future.

He added that the two nations' brotherly relations have not been interrupted and have always been good in all fields. He said, however, that certain insignificant problems have created some lukewarmness in these relations.

Syrian Minister's Statements to Saudi Paper Denounced

JN0603111593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has denounced Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's recent anti-Iraq statements. The paper notes that these statements make it necessary to revive the call for reconsidering so-called Arabs who falsely identify themselves with the Arab nation.

In an article today, the paper affirms that had those statements been made by an Israeli official, they would

not have aroused discontent among the Iraqis and honorable Arabs who heard them, but for such statements to be made by a person affiliated with Arabism, then at least he should have maintained a shred of pan-Arab affiliation, irrespective of how far he has distanced himself from Arabism.

In a statement to the Saudi paper ARAB NEWS, al-Shar' regretted that "the coalition forces wasted a golden opportunity to topple the Iraqi regime after the liberation of Kuwait."

AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses astonishment that some so-called Arabs have gone too far in their debasement and involvement in treason and anti-Arabism as reflected by the al-Shar' statements. The paper says that anything the agents do to appease the White House in Washington can be believed, but it is unbelievable for an Arab to regret that the Americans and their allies failed to destroy the homeland of his Arab brethren.

The paper highlights the political and personal motives behind the anti-Iraq statements by al-Shar', saying that his behavior and conduct are linked to the behavior and conduct of the Syrian regime in general. "However," the paper continues, "this minister began to outbid other officials with foreign affiliations in showing hostility toward Iraq, his objective being to augment his hard currency accounts in foreign banks."

In this regard, the paper indicates that the rulers of Kuwait are observing the stands of their agents and pay them as much as the hostility they show toward Iraq.

AL-JUMHRIYAH affirms that the regret of Faruq al-Shar for the coalition forces' failure to take the opportunity after the liberation of Kuwait and topple the regime in Iraq reflects a state of caution and fear from the possible developments of the situation in the Arab arena in view of Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the aggression, and in view of the escalating Arab revolution against submissive and subservient policies and political bargains.

The paper says: The survival of the revolution in Iraq under President Saddam Husayn means that the Arab masses' rallying around Iraq, which has been bolstered by the Mother of Battles, will increase and turn over time into a revolution against agents and suspect regimes.

Kurdish Leader Interviewed Before Visit to Kuwait

LD0503160393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0927 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Damascus, 4 Mar [date as received] (KUNA)—Jalal Talabani, the leader of the Iraqi Kurdish front, said today that he will be visiting Kuwait next week for talks with Kuwaiti officials.

In an interview with KUNA, Talabani added that during his meetings with Kuwaiti officials he "will discuss issues of common interest to the Kuwaiti and Iraqi peoples, and will exchange views on important matters of common interest. Efforts will be made to work jointly for the rescuing of Iraq from the dictatorship oppressing the Iraqi people and the bringing about of a democratic regime in Iraq which secures rights and democratic freedoms for all citizens and provides security and good-neighborliness in the region." [passage omitted]

Asked whether he had sent delegations to Iran and Turkey concerning the idea of setting up a federal regime separate from Iraq, Talabani said: "Indeed we did send delegations to Iran and Turkey, and I myself visited Syria, to make clear several points, including the point that we believe that Iraqi national unity is essential to all. Consequently, we are most anxious to preserve Iraqi national unity and we oppose the division of Iraq." He went on to add that "federalism, in the historical and constitutional sense, is in fact the unification of the various provinces of the one state and the unification of the various parts of the one people." He stated: "We made this point very clear to the brothers in Syria and to our friends in Turkey and Iran, and I believe that they are convinced that the Kurdish front does not want the division of Iraq; rather, it is eager for the preservation of Iraq's national unity." [passage omitted]

Reportage on Killing of Israeli, UNRWA Witness

UN Official Said To Ignore Murder

TA0603092693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] The investigation of the murder of Yehoshu'a Weissbrod in Rafah [on 2 March] has found that when he was being stoned to death by local residents, a UN car arrived at the site. In the car was the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] officer in charge of the Rafah area. Local residents addressed her, asking that she do something to rescue Weissbrod or notify the Army.

Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', the commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip, told our correspondent that the UN officials ignored the pleas, and left the area without calling for help.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the murder investigation continues, and when the full details are made clear, a complaint will be filed with the UNRWA institutions.

UNRWA Denies Charges

TA0603142293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] has denied Qol Yisra'el's report that the agency's coordinator in Rafah refused to help Yehoshu'a Weissbrod, who was murdered in the town on 2 March. UNRWA's spokesman in the Gaza Strip told our correspondent Moti Amir that the coordinator arrived on the scene of the murder long after the incident had started and she immediately tried to intervene, but the people gathered on the site would not let her. The spokesman added that UNRWA relayed all the details to the Civil Administration the next day. He refused to say in what way she tried to help Weissbrod and why she did not summon the security forces when she saw that the mob was stoning him to death. The spokesman also refused to answer questions on why she did not photograph the incident, as she habitually does whenever there is a confrontation between Rafah residents and Israeli army soldiers.

Our correspondent adds that the coordinator's driver confirmed on 4 March that they arrived on the scene when the incident had just started and noted that it is not their job to intervene in events. As soon as the investigation is over, the Army will decide whether to file a complaint against UNRWA.

Expulsion of UN Representative Demanded

TA0703071593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] The Likud and Tzomet are demanding that the prime minister take immediate action against Katharine Striker, the UNRWA coordinator in Rafah, who passed in the area where an Arab mob was stoning Yehoshu'a Weissbrod to death last week.

Brigadier General Sami', commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Gaza Strip, told Qol Yisra'el that local residents asked Striker to do something in order to save Weissbrod, or at least to inform the Army about the incident, but she refused and continued driving. The UNRWA spokesman denied the charges, but he refused to say why Striker did not alert the security forces and why she did not film the incident, as she regularly does when IDF soldiers confront rioters.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, demands to expel the UNRWA representative because she refused to perform a basic human duty. Tzomet's Moshe Peled says that Striker has proven that this international organization is using the refugees as a tool in its struggle against Israel.

Knesset Member Demands Expulsion

TA0703083093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee says that if it transpires that the UNRWA coordinator in Rafah has indeed ignored the lynching perpetrated by the Arab mob on Yehoshu'a Weissbrod, Israel should demand that she be immediately suspended. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Labor's Knesset member Ori Or also maintains that the Foreign Ministry should demand that Katharine Striker be expelled from Israel. [passage omitted]

UNRWA Protests 'Irresponsible' Rumors

TA0703185593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] The United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] has denied that one of its employees was present during the stoning and shooting of Yehoshu'a Weissbrod in Rafah last Tuesday. A spokesman for the organization also dismissed a Qol Yisra'el report that the official had been asked to go on vacation until things quietened down. Steve Linde has details.

[Begin recording] [Linde] Sources in the Gaza Strip say Katherine Striker, an American official of UNRWA, will leave the country for a short time. But UNRWA spokesman Rolf (Anoi) denied the report this evening.

[(Anoi)] I am not aware of this and I would be.

[Linde] You would be aware of [words indistinct]?

[(Anoi)] Oh, I am sure, I am sure. She has not been fired. she has not been deported, she has not been...[changes thought] We have heard so many rumors that are all not true.

[Linde] Has it been established though, definitely, that the official in question was not at the scene at the time?

[(Anoi)] At what time?

[Linde] During the stoning and shooting of Yehoshu'a Weissbrod?

[(Anoi]) The official came after the shooting, after that was over.

[Linde] The controversy was sparked by a statement this weekend by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commander in Gaza, Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami'. He said the Army is examining charges by Palestinians who witnessed the lynching of Yehoshu'a Weissbrod that UNRWA personnel on the scene were told what was happening, but did not intervene or summon help.

This afternoon, the director of UNRWA operations in the Gaza Strip, Klaus Werner met with the head of the Civil Administration in Gaza, Brigadier General Dubi Gazit. The UNRWA spokesman explains the purpose the meeting.

[(Bnoi]) The director of UNRWA operations protested very, very strongly against the serious allegations that were leveled against the agency, and he expressed his opinion that bringing in the news these inaccurate facts is totally irresponsible.

[Linde] He added that UNRWA had also requested urgent meetings with the head of the Army's head of Southern Command, Major General Matan Vilna'i, and the Gaza Commander, Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami'. [end recording]

UNRWA Officer Interviewed

TA0803100193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Mar 93 p A2

["Exclusive" interview with Katherine Striker, UN Relief and Works Agency refugee affairs officer in the Gaza Strip on duty during murder of Yehoshu'a Weissbrod in Rafah on 3 March, by 'Amira Hess on 7 March]

[Text] [Hess] When did you reach the scene of the murder?

[Striker] At around 1400.

[Hess] How long did it take you to realize what was happening?

[Striker] A few minutes. We saw a car with yellow license plates [indicating ownership by an Israeli citizen] and lots of people standing around it. We only saw the back of the car, and I did not see anybody. We tried to approach the car to write down the license plate and the damage done to the car, as dictated by procedure. We tried to get to the front of the car. At that point, a masked man and a few other youngsters approached the car and prevented us from getting close. We tried to avoid them by going around the other side, and at that point I noticed that there was a body in the car. Then I realized that somebody had been killed.

The man was not moving; his face and chest were covered in blood. I immediately tried to raise UNRWA's [UN Relief and Works Agency] head office in Gaza on the radio, and some men in the mob angrily ordered us to leave the area. We headed for the UNRWA clinic to phone from there, but the mob tried to stop us. When I reached the clinic, I repeatedly tried to phone the head office, but I could not get a line to the switchboard in Rafah. I did not manage to call anybody. Then I returned to the site of the incident; I was afraid something might happen to the body.

[Hess] How far were you from the closest military checkpoint?

[Striker] Approximately 1.5-2 meters.

[Hess] According to procedures, what must you do when there are clashes between the local population and the Army?

[Striker] Call the communications room at UNRWA's head office in Gaza.

[Hess] How long did it take for the Army to arrive?

[Striker) The Army arrived 15-20 minutes after we reached the site.

[Hess] Did you manage to talk with any of your supervisors?

[Striker] No.

[Hess] Did you talk to any soldiers or officers at the scene?

[Striker] The were no soldiers in the area at that time, and we do not have radio contact with the Army authorities.

[Hess] It has been reported that local residents asked you to stop the killing.

[Striker] That is not true. The only people who spoke to us were those who told us to leave the area. I should like to point out that I believe Yehoshu'a Weissbrod was already dead when we arrived.

[Hess] If that is the case, why would they lie?

[Striker] Perhaps they fear the Army will punish them for not having helped the man.

[Hess] Therefore, they are putting the blame on somebody else.

[Striker] Yes.

[Hess] How long have you worked for UNRWA?

[Striker] Seven and a half months.

[Hess] Have you not developed distrust of Israel during the time you have been working as a refugee affairs officer? Perhaps that is why you did not do more or felt there was nothing else you could do for the man.

[Striker] I have learned from experience that in an army, like with all people, one soldier is different from another. I have not developed an image of anybody as the enemy.

I was shocked by what I saw. When the Border Police arrived, a soldier shouted at me and told me to get going, even though I told him I was trying to shield the man's body. He shouted at me angrily. A second soldier had a different reaction. He cried, and when he heard me speaking to the first soldier, could tell he realized I felt like him.

My behavior at the scene had nothing to do with the fact that the man was an Israeli. I did all I could under the circumstances.

[Hess] Have you spoken to the press about the incident?

[Striker] Until this interview, I have not spoken with any members of the press.

[Hess] Are you on leave now?

[Striker] No. I worked my regular shift today.

[Hess] Have you returned to Rafah since the murder?

[Striker] I was there yesterday, as usual.

[Hess] Have you heard any comments from people?

[Striker] I have not heard any comments. The people were under curfew.

Curfew in Area; Gazan Shot in Other Area

TA0803174293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] A resident of the Gaza Strip who returned this afternoon from work in Israel was shot near the Bayt Lahiyah junction. After being wounded in the chest, he was treated by an Army doctor, and then transferred to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon, where he died of his wounds.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that other Arab workers claimed that the man had been shot by Jewish settlers demonstrating at the junction after returning from the funeral of Uri Megidish in Qiryat Gat. The settlers, on the other hand, say that the man was shot by other Arabs. Our correspondent also reports that a curfew was imposed this morning on a neighborhood of the Ibnah refugee camp where Yehoshu'a Weissbrod was stoned to death.

Three residents of Rafah sustained light wounds when shot by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. There was also rioting in the Jabalyah refugee camp, during which six locals were shot and wounded by soldiers.

A woman whose plan to stab a Border Policeman in East Jerusalem today was foiled had tried to carry out a similar attack in Hebron two years ago. She was shot and wounded in that incident. The IDF is investigating.

The woman is aged 19 and a resident of Bani-Na'im in the Hebron region. She decided to stab a security official following last week's incident in Tel Aviv in which two Israelis were killed by a Gazan. She bought a knife in Hebron three days ago and came to Jerusalem today with the aim of stabbing Jews.

UNRWA Officer Said Guilty of Complicity

TA0803132893 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Mar 93 p 9

[Editorial: "UNRWA, UN Bad Works Agency"]

[Text] It is not so pleasant to turn the spotlight on a woman who did not display human compassion on International Women's Day, but the ruthless reality in the Middle East does not discriminate between the sexes. The UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] officer who closed her eyes and ears during the terrible moments that sealed Yehoshu'a Weissbrod's fate deserves not only to be denounced but to be expelled from Israel at once. If her immediate supervisors fail to understand it, this fact should be explained to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali prior to his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in a few days.

The United Nations and its organizations are supposed to be neutral. They are far from that, because circumstances in the field tend to sway them in favor of the weak, the underprivileged, and the needy. Such is the case in south Lebanon, where UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] units sympathize with locals affiliated with Shiite and Palestinian organizations more than with those affiliated with Israel and the South Lebanese Army. This applies even more so to UNRWA in Gaza, where conditions—particularly in the refugee camps—are appalling.

UNRWA workers side with the Palestinians against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. If they run into a confrontation between Israeli troops and local residents, they will try to save the Palestinians from the hands of the Israelis or at least document the incident and later use it as evidence against Israel. This is a fact of life of the intifadah, and the IDF and other government authorities must learn to deal with it.

Even if they did not sympathize with the Palestinian cause, the fate of people suspected of collaborating with Israel would definitely deter them from taking action that could be construed as collaboration. Therefore, it is no wonder that the UNRWA officer abstained from any palpable intervention during the attack on Weissbrod and did not take out her camera to photograph the killers. On the other hand, there is reason to wonder why she failed to summon the authorities to the scene of the crime at once to save the victim.

No excuse will alter the complicity of the UNRWA officer in the crime. Although the United Nations and its workers usually consider Israel the guilty party and the Palestinians the victims, this time it was the other way

around. As long as the United Nations wriggles about and abstains from a severe and dramatic punishment, it has no claim to humanitarian considerations of the kind Secretary Butrus- Ghali said guided him in the affair of the deportees. Humanitarianism is infrangible, and UNRWA and its workers did not act humanely in this case.

Gaza To Be Sealed Off 'Until Further Notice'

NC0703165893 Paris AFP in English 1620 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Jerusalem, March 7 (AFP) - The Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip will remain sealed off until further notice, an Army spokesman told AFP on Sunday.

Military sources had said Friday that the territory might be reopened on Monday after the end of the Jewish feast of Purim. "This measure will be maintained until further notice," the spokesman insisted.

For the sixth day running no Palestinian could enter or leave the Gaza Strip, which is home to 775,000 people. It was sealed off Tuesday after a Gaza Palestinian allegedly stabbed to death two Israelis in Tel Aviv the previous day.

But authorities on the Gaza Strip lifted a curfew that was slapped on the Rafah refugee camp after an Israeli was stoned and shot to death, the spokesman added.

Elsewhere, Palestinian sources reported clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli soldiers at the strip's camp of Khan Yunus but made no reference to casualties.

Army To Lift Blockade 8 Mar

NC0703180993 Paris AFP in English 1750 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Jerusalem, March 7 (AFP) - The Israeli Army has decided to reopen the Gaza Strip on Monday after a six-day blockade, allowing 40,000 Palestinians to return to work in Israel, the Army spokesman announced Sunday.

The Strip, home to 775,000 Palestinians, was closed last Tuesday to review security measures after a Gaza Palestinian stabbed to death two Israelis in Tel Aviv the previous day.

The spokesman said it would reopen at 3 A.M. (0100 GMT) on Monday, overtaking an earlier report from an Army official that the Gaza Strip would remain sealed off until further notice.

On Sunday, authorities on the Strip lifted a curfew that was slapped on the Rafah refugee camp after an Israeli was stoned and shot to death.

'Stricter' Control for Reopening

TA0703182493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] The Gaza Strip is opening up again tomorrow, exactly one week after it was sealed off when two people were stabbed to death in the heart of Tel Aviv. Starting at 0300 tomorrow morning [0100 GMT], Gazans will be able to return to their jobs in Israel. During the period of the closure, all work permits were screened and reviewed. When the first workers arrive at the Erez checkpoint tomorrow, they will find that control before they cross over the Green Line into Israel proper is much stricter than in the past.

Police Chief Discloses Drop in Crime During Gaza Closure

TA0703203193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Excerpt] One day before the closure on the Gaza Strip is due to be lifted, the cabinet heard some worrisome figures on the scope of the criminal activity in Israel carried out by Palestinians from the territories. Officials in charge of internal security also noted the difficulties in implementing tougher supervision over workers entering Israel. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports.

Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am warned that the public was concerned about the deterioration of individual security throughout Israel. He demanded that more be done on this matter, while Health Minister Hayim Ramon called yet again for a cabinet debate on a gradual Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin scolded Ramon, asking him to explain the connection between the two issues and demanding to know why he kept bringing the matter up. It appears that such a debate is not imminent. Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner reinforced the above sentiments. Today, he revealed to the ministers that there had been a 40-percent drop in crimes against property—thefts, burglaries, etc.—during the past week, while the Gaza Strip had been closed off. In Tel Aviv alone, property crimes dropped by half.

These figures strengthened old fears that the intifadah and the crowded conditions in the territories, especially in the Gaza Strip, were one of the major sources of crime in Israel, and constituted a danger to property as well as to lives.

Police Commissioner Terner then disclosed yet another figure to the surprised ministers. The commissioner asserted that only about 10 percent of the Arabs from the territories were properly inspected at the checkpoints each morning on their way to work in Israel. This figure was a maximum estimate, and at some Gaza Strip checkpoints an even smaller percentage of Palestinians were inspected. Any additional inspections of the over 100,000 Palestinians passing through the checkpoints

would lead to intolerable pressure and traffic jams. The ministers were flabbergasted. This means that Palestinians could not only enter Israel with invalid work permits, but also smuggle in all kinds of weapons.

In response, Prime Minister Rabin said that it was impossible to guarantee a hermetic seal with total security. The murderers do not only come from the Gaza Strip, Rabin noted, and the only comprehensive solution to the problem was a political agreement. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

Israeli Stabbed to Death in Southern Gaza 8 Mar

TA0803061193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Here is a report we have just received from the Gaza Strip: An Israeli citizen, a resident of the Qatif Bloc, was stabbed to death this morning in the south of the Gaza Strip. Searches for the murderer have been launched, of course. This is the initial report, and we will update you as soon as we receive more information.

Reaction to Gaza Murder

TA0803114493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said following the stabbing this morning that a unilateral withdrawal from the area would turn the Gaza Strip into the world's largest launching base for terrorist attacks. Touring the north this morning, Ben-Eli'ezer said several difficult steps have to be taken before Israel can contemplate withdrawing from the Strip.

Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, who was at the entrance to the Gaza Strip when the stabbing occurred, said Israel has always had to contend with terrorist attacks but would never let the attacks dictate Israeli policy. Reporter Le'a Zinder asked Gur about the possibility of a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza.

[Begin recording] [Gur] This is out of question. After 40 years of struggle, we finally reached the point in which we negotiate with the Palestinians about an overall arrangement, and that's exactly what we should stick to and discuss in Washington or anywhere else.

[Zinder] So what is the government going to do to put an end to what has become a terrible daily occurrence of stabbings?

[Gur] First of all, there is no doubt that this is a terrible phenomena and we suffer a lot. But I have to say that the main test of that terrorist activity is to what extent it really affects Israeli policy. I can tell that during the 45 years of our existence, we have had all kinds of terrorist activities. There were periods in which, unfortunately, we lost many more people. Still, Israel became stronger. And while we were in the beginning only less than 1 million, now we are almost 5 million. We have to look at it in historical eyes, and the same the Palestinians.

[Zinder] Do you believe that the orders controlling opening fire after terrorist attacks, after stone throwing, after other kinds of attacks should be changed?

[Gur] I believe that basically they are correct, but no doubt, if there will be a change in their behavior, and if the danger to our people will increase, we shall have to ask ourselves whether there are other means or other ways, all of them according to the law, because Israel is a state of law.

[Zinder] You were at the Erez crossing point early this morning when the closure was lifted. Are you satisfied with the security arrangements there?

[Gur] Yes, in the area it's OK. I believe that we can at least try to overcome those local dangers in the area of Erez. But, as I also said this morning, nobody can be sure that no terrorist will be able to cross the border somewhere and to initiate an assassination or murder—as a matter of fact, what happened today. While we were checking the outlet of the Palestinians to come and work in Israel, there was a murder inside the area of the Gaza Strip, in one of our Jewish settlements. So there is no one way; there is no one method. It's a very complicated conflict. The main issue is not to get worried and not to get scared. We shall leave Gaza when we have an agreement of coexistence. Until then, we are there. [end recording]

Other reactions to the stabbing this morning: The Likud faction in the Knesset says the incident is further proof that the government's security policy is bankrupt. The Likud called on Prime Minister Rabin to conduct a thorough reassessment of his defense agenda.

The Tzomet party issued one of the strongest reactions. The faction called on the government to expand the force in Gaza and take drastic measures before Prime Minister Rabin's trip to the United States. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 8 March adds that "the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee is scheduled to discuss domestic security problems with Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq tomorrow. Ran Kohen, chairman of the Meretz faction, will demand that the Army redeploy in the territories and not maintain large forces in the refugee camps and city centers. Kohen told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that there is no need to jeopardize soldiers lives in those places."]

Fatah Members Arrested in Gaza; Other Incidents

TA0803071993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] In the al-Mughazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, soldiers arrested 27-year-old Ahmad al-Satari, suspected of heading the Fatah cell known as the Red Eagles in the Khan Yunus area. Soldiers on patrol in the camp asked to see his identification card and then searched him. They found a loaded gun and ammunition. The Army

said al-Satari had been on its wanted list for a long time. Two other Palestinians suspected of belonging to the cell werSr??so arrested.

A soldier opened fire on a car which ran a roadblock last night in the Gaza Strip, injuring the driver. The vehicle approached the roadblock slowly and then increased speed as the soldiers moved towards the car. One of the soldiers fired, first in the air and then at the vehicle. The driver was hit in the leg and taken to hospital.

Jerusalem Police have detained three m?? F?om??he al??am refugee camp suspected of assaulting a cab driver and stealing his car last week. During the search operation last night, police arrested two other residents of the camp in possession of a knife and a gun.

[A report on additional incidents in the territories over the weekend by Eytan Rabin and ITIM on page A3 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 8 March adds that "five residents were injured in the Gaza Strip in a series of clashes" and that "a soldier was slightly injured by a stone in the Strip." The report adds that in an incident in a Gaza city mosque, "10 worshipers were injured in a clash between Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, supporters and Islamic Jihad activists over control of the mosque." In addition, "two residents of Ramallah were injured in clashes with the Army," but "an Army spokesman said that there were no clashes in the West Bank yesterday."]

Wanted Man Captured in Janin, Terrorist Home Sealed in Gaza

TA0503185693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Security forces have arrested a 25-year-old Janin resident, Yusuf Rashid, in the Janin area village of (Khirbat al-Tayyib). Rashid was wanted by the security forces for a number of years. He was caught carrying a pistol and bullets. The Army spokesman says Rashid is suspected of being a senior member of the local Fatah Black Panther group and murdering Janin area residents who cooperated with the authorities. He is also suspected of attacking soldiers. The security forces arrested a number of villagers who may have helped shelter Rashid.

In the Gaza City neighborhood of Zaytun, security forces have sealed the home of Ziyad Husni Salamah who is accused of stabbing and killing two people in Tel Aviv earlier this week and wounding seven others.

Ministers Ben-Eli'ezer, Sarid on UNRWA, Peace Talks

TA0703151893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Today's cabinet meeting was shorter than usual. Following the meeting our political correspondent Shlomo Raz interviewed Ministers Ben-Eli'ezer and Sarid:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Eli'ezer] As former coordinator of government activities in the territories, I believe that the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] incident is improper. I believe that the Foreign Ministry is dealing with this affair, and I expect that it will lodge a complaint with the United Nations. I hope that henceforth the UNRWA representatives in the area will behave differently.

[Raz] Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, even though Israel has not reacted officially to this incident, how do the ministers regard this incident with the UNRWA official?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, speaking for myself, I think she behaved improperly. I do not recall any such incidents from my experience in the territories. I think this is a serious incident, and all the apologies do not change this fact. It is a good thing that the Foreign Ministry is dealing with this matter. I believe that it will do everything possible, including lodging a complaint with the UN authorities regarding this issue.

[Raz] Tomorrow the foreign minister is leaving for Europe, and the prime minister will leave for an important meeting with President Clinton next weekend. Is Israel making any special preparations? Do you foresee additional Israeli steps toward reconvening the peace talks?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I believe that the more important of the two is the visit of the prime minister to the United States. I regard it as an opening toward what I term as a year of decisions, 1993. I think that Warren Christopher's visit served as an excellent opening, because it paved the way for the significant meeting between Rabin and Clinton. I personally have great hopes that this visit will bear excellent fruit.

[Raz] Thank you, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer. Minister Yosi Sarid, based on today's cabinet meeting, do you think Israel should implement additional steps to facilitate the negotiations?

[Sarid] I do not think any additional steps are necessary toward reconvening the negotiations next month. I believe the government has formed the impression that negotiations will reconvene during the middle or toward the end of April, and that Israel will not be called upon to implement additional steps or gestures.

[Raz] Over the weekend we heard that an Arab from the territories was involved in the New York explosion. Did the cabinet learn anything more on this affair?

[Sarid] This issue was not raised in today's cabinet meeting. I assume, however, that this very painful incident in New York could encourage certain U.S. circles to evince a little more understanding toward Israel. Perhaps they will now understand better why such a government as ours, which is a peace-seeking government par excellence, sometimes finds itself forced to deport 400

people. Since we are faced with an extraordinary organization we have to implement extraordinary measures against it.

[Raz] What about the prime minister's upcoming visit to the United States?

[Sarid] The prime minister will depart next weekend in an effort to resume the negotiations. I believe that the prime minister will relay constructive ideas toward reconvening the negotiations and facilitating them.

[Raz] To repeat, today's cabinet session was somewhat shorter than usual, perhaps because of the Purim Holiday. The ministers were briefed on security and political matters. The political establishment is preparing for Rabin's upcoming meeting with Clinton. Jerusalem believes that this visit will herald the resumption of the peace talks on 18 or 19 April, despite the various obstacles still on the way toward this. Sources in Jerusalem have also raised the possibility that a senior U.S. official, such as Edward Djerejian, could come to the Middle East to prod the various sides. We have also heard the criticism leveled by Minister Ben- Eli'ezer regarding the UNRWA incident in Rafah. [end recording]

U.S. Said 'Encouraging' UK To Upgrade Ties With PLO

TA0703065293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 93 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The United States is encouraging the British Government to upgrade the level of its talks with the PLO; a report to this effect was received at the Foreign Ministry from Minister Plenipotentiary Gid'on Me'ir at the Israeli Embassy in London over the weekend. Me'ir noted in his report that according to unofficial information received at the embassy, the Americans are seeking reliable and updated information about the current state of things in the PLO through friendly European countries.

According to the same report, Britain is considering reinstating the pre-Gulf war ministerial level of its contacts with the PLO. Since the war, the two sides have held contacts on an ambassadorial level. U.S. sources have recently said that some of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees had served the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem as sources of information about the situation in the territories.

According to unconfirmed information, Britain may follow in the footsteps of Belgium by upgrading the level of the PLO representation in London. So far, the PLO has been represented in Britain by an information office only.

The Belgian Foreign Ministry explained over the weekend that its decision to upgrade the level of the PLO representation in Brussels stems mainly from a desire to strengthen the PLO in view of the rise of Hamas. The Belgians added that their step was designed to enhance the status of the Palestinian diaspora and its inclusion in the peace process.

Sources in Jerusalem said that some activists deported to Lebanon had cooperated with Israel is a number of instances, while others had been wanted men through whom, according to the security forces, active terrorist networks could have been exposed.

A report received over the weekend from the Israeli Embassy in Washington indicates that U.S. officials do not anticipate a Middle East tour by Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian or any other official prior to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the United States. The officials noted that Christopher and his aides are focusing on preparations for the visit of Rabin who is due to leave for the United States next weekend.

Palestinian-American Detained Against Hamas Background

TA0703095293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Last weekend the security forces detained a Palestinian from the territories, who is also an American citizen. The man is suspected of being involved in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activity in the territories.

The Palestinian's detention was carried out in the framework of activities aimed at unearthing Hamas contacts in the United States. The detainee is suspected of being involved in transferring funds from the United States to the Hamas branches in the territories.

Sources in the Israeli Foreign Ministry told our correspondent that the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem was informed about the detention, and consulate representatives will be able to visit the detainee in the very near future.

Israel has recently relayed to the United States much information concerning Hamas activity in the United States, which was uncovered following the detention of American-Palestinians and other Palestinians.

Meanwhile Jerusalem is forming the assessment that the Palestinian delegation to negotiations with Israel will come to the next round of talks in Washington, apparently slated to reconvene on 19 April.

U.S.-Palestinian Agreements Said To Contain Secret Clauses

TA0803091193 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Mar 93 p 5

[Report by Amnon Barzilay and Washington correspondent Sari'el Shani]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Administration is disappointed with the Palestinians in view of their violation of the understandings reached with Secretary of State Warren Christopher. This transpired in reports sent from Washington to Jerusalem over the past few days noting that the Americans strongly feel that the Palestinians, owing to their internal disagreements, cannot reach a united position on resuming the negotiations.

A government source close to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has recently said that Rabin has also despaired of the possibility of reaching understandings with the Palestinians that would enable the promotion of the peace talks. [passage omitted]

The understandings reached between the United States and the Palestinians include two secret clauses related to the U.S. position on Jerusalem, stating that this issue will be discussed as part of the permanent arrangement and that the United States objects to unilateral moves on the matter. [passage omitted]

IDF Helicopters Raid Ahmad Jibril Target

TA0603124393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Report by military correspondent Netan'el Semrik—live]

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has just announced that Israel Air Force helicopters this morning raided a terrorist target that belongs to the Ahmad Jibril front, near Sidon. A terrorist vessel was destroyed in the attack. The helicopters returned safely to Israel.

Eye witnesses told a REUTERS correspondent that at least two helicopters took part in the air raid. Lebanese sources further reported that at least four rockets were fired at the terrorist target. So far, there have been no reports about casualties.

Allow me to remind you that this was the first air raid in Lebanon which the Air Force initiated this year. South Lebanon is currently quiet and tense, and so far there has been no reaction to the raid. [passage omitted]

Rabin To Discuss Military Aid During U.S. Visit

TA0703053093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] During his visit to the United States next weekend, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will raise issues relating to bilateral military cooperation. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Mr. Rabin will discuss the size of military aid for next year, as well as the deployment of military equipment, ammunition and spare parts belonging to the U.S. Army in Israel. Mr. Rabin will also raise the issue of the Arrow project, especially the successful experiment carried out last week. The prime minister will be accompanied by David 'Ivri, director general of the Defense Ministry.

To Urge Clinton To Seek Peace With Syria

TA0703102793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 7 Mar 93 p 7

[Report by Amnon Barzilay, Aharon Barne'a, and Sari'el Shani in Washington]

[Excerpt] At his upcoming meeting with Bill Clinton in the United States, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will try to persuade the U.S. President to take action toward a separate Israeli-Syrian peace arrangement. The argument for this course of action is the fact that the Palestinians are causing the peace process to regress.

It has been learned that Rabin does not think much of the weekend NEW YORK TIMES report on the Syrian willingness to accept a phased Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The news was reported by columnist Leslie Gelb, who is reputedly on good footing with the U.S. Administration, and particularly with national security adviser Antony Lake.

Political sources said yesterday that contrary to the impression which U.S. elements have been trying to create, the Syrian stand as leaked by the administration reflects no drastic change. Jerusalem believes it is possible, however, that some details of the talk between Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had not been publicized.

The sources added that the question is not whether the Syrians are willing to accept a phased withdrawal, but what Syria will offer Israel in parallel with its demand for Israeli withdrawal. Reports received in Jerusalem indicate that the U.S. Administration is disappointed with the Palestinian stance and with their reneging on several understandings achieved in the course of Christopher's visit to the region. [passage omitted]

[Writing on page 1 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 7 March, Hemi Shalev cites "elements in the prime minister's bureau" as saying "last night that a considerable part of Rabin's talks with the administration will focus on regional issues, with a special emphasis on the danger posed by Iran and the spread of Islamic fundamentalism throughout the Arab world. Rabin has instructed the defense establishment to prepare position papers on these issues. The elements believe that the detention of the man who had placed a car bomb under the World Trade Center in New York provides a golden opportunity for introducing a message concerning the perils of extreme Islam."

[Shalev adds: "With regard to the peace process, Rabin will try to probe in greater detail the American intentions concerning the degree of their involvement in the process. A report Jerusalem received from the Israeli Embassy in Washington over the weekend indicates that at present, the administration does not have a clear idea of the practical implications of the term used by Christopher during his visit to Israel about the United States being "a full partner" in the process."]

UN Envoy Calls For Harsh Steps Against Muslim Terror

TA0603093693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi has called on the Security Council and the Western countries to take harsh measures in the struggle against Islamic terrorism. Ambassador Ya'aqobi hopes that now, after it has become apparent that the suspects detained in connection with the New York explosion are connected with the fundamentalist Islamic movement, Israel's warnings against these movements will be heeded. He made the remarks in a conversation with our Washington-based correspondent Arye Golan.

UK Envoy Summoned to Foreign Ministry Over Ties With PLO

TA0803162493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Jerusalem perceives the UK Foreign Office's decision to meet with PLO representatives as the last straw in the recently prevailing European trend of reinstating ties with the PLO. UK Foreign Minister Douglass Hogg is due to meet tomorrow with a Palestinian delegation, which is headed by Faysal al-Husayni, but features also the PLO representative in London and the head of the PLO's Europe desk. It will be the first meeting between official British representatives and PLO personnel since Britain decided to suspend ministerial-level contacts with the organization following the Gulf war.

The UK ambassador in Israel was today summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem to hear the ministry's protest through Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin in the wake of the decision to meet with PLO officials. Jerusalem takes a grave view of the renewal of UK-PLO contacts and fears that this is but another sign of a pan-European trend to reestablish ties with the PLO. As will be remembered, Belgium upgraded the level of the PLO representation in Brussels a few days ago.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who left for Europe this morning, and his deputy, Yosi Beilin, who will visit Britain this week, will attempt to halt the European drift toward the PLO. Israel will try to explain to Europe in general and Britain in particular that the resumption of ties with the PLO at this time will bolster the organization, which has been showing great intransigence, delaying, in Israel's view, the resumption of the peace talks.

Article in Islamic Paper Considered 'Overt Threat' to PLO

TA0703125893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 93 p A4

[Report by Yosef Algazi]

[Excerpts] The Israeli Islamic Movement weekly SAWT AL-HAQQ WA AL-HURRIYAH (VOICE OF JUSTICE AND LIBERTY), in its most recent issue, carries an article on the resumption of talks in Washington, entitled: "By Returning to Negotiations Without Securing the Return of Deportees the PLO Will Be Sentencing Itself to Death."

The article was written by journalist Muhammad Zaytun al-Mushni from the Hebron al-Zahrah news agency which is close to Islamic fundamentalist circles. The article features photographs of Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who head the Palestinian delegation.

The author of the article writes: "If the PLO orders the Palestinian delegation to attend the next round of talks either before the deportees are returned or after proposed solutions are rejected by the deportees, it will be sentencing to death its own credibility in the Palestinian street." [passage omitted]

The article in SAWT AL-HAQQ WA AL-HURRIYAH elicited various reactions in the territories. One of the editors of the Palestinian news agency in East Jerusalem, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "The article's title and content have caused various degrees of concern in Palestinian political circles. Some regard it as an overt threat to the PLO and the Palestinian delegates, if they attend the next round of talks.

"Others believe that the article hovers on the thin line between advice and threat. There is a growing feeling that to prevent the Palestinian-Israeli talks from resuming, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders will adopt an uncompromising, maximalist line on the deportees issue at the expense of the continued suffering of their friends in Marj al-Zuhur. They hope in this way to damage the standing of the PLO. Aborting the peace process and divesting the PLO of its supremacy in both domestic and external arenas are the highest priorities of Hamas," he noted. [passage omitted]

Statement Notes 'Great Concern' Over Bombing Suspect

JN0603184993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1812 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] An official Jordanian spokesman made the following statement this evening:

We received with great concern the reports that Muhammad Salamah, the primary suspect in the recent criminal act related to the explosion at the World Trade Center in New York, is a Jordanian. The Jordanian authorities and security departments in the Kingdom have already started their investigations to collect information on this issue. It has been learned that the suspect has no criminal record in Jordan and that he left the country legally for the United States in 1987, with an entry visa valid for five years. He settled there and has not returned to the country since.

The investigations have so far revealed that this person was born in Biddya, in the Nabulus Subdistrict, on 1 September 1967, and that his father is a Jordanian of Palestinian origin. He did not commit any political crimes before leaving the country for the United States in 1987.

The spokesman added: In accordance with the Kingdom's clear policy against terrorism, Jordanian authorities will do their utmost to cooperate with the ongoing investigations to reveal the whole truth behind this ignominious criminal act.

Information Minister Comments

JN0703211293 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Jordan reiterated that a man charged in the United States of complicity in the bombing of the World Trade Center has no criminal record in the kingdom. Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said investigation had shown no prior political activity by the accused Muhammad Salamah. He told WTN News that if Salamah was the right man, he would have been recruited abroad.

[Begin al-Sharif recording] So he left (?us) in 1987, and then apparently he was involved in these things. If he proves to be the man they want, then he must have been recruited in the United States. [end recording]

Family Background Given

NC0703180793 Paris AFP in English 1716 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Report by Randah Habib]

[Text] Al-Zarqa', Jordan, March 7 (AFP) - The Palestinian family of Muhammad Salamah, suspect in the World Trade Center bombing, insisted here Sunday he could not have been involved and was a pacifist looking to marry and settle down.

His mother, Umm-Muhammad, said the eldest of her 11 children was a "pacifist who would not do any harm to anyone."

"He left for the United States in the hope of making his fortune and to help us financially, but in five years of being away he only sent a total of 4,200 dollars," she said at home in al-Zarqa', 30 kilometres (20 miles) north of Amman.

His brothers and sisters also voiced disbelief and insisted Muhammad could not have been involved in the bombing.

Salamah's family comes from Nabulus on the occupied West Bank and moved to Jordan when he was three months old after Israel seized the territory in the 1967 Middle East war.

The suspect in the February 26 bombing which killed five people and injured 1,000 travelled to the United States on a tourist visa in 1988 with a degree from the Islamic studies faculty of the University of Jordan.

He found only odd jobs and has not returned to Jordan since he left, according to his family. Jordanian police said he had no criminal record.

His father Amin Salamah was a lieutenant in the Jordanian Army but retired in 1990 and has since worked in a customs clearance company for a monthly wage of around 200 dollars. He is the family's only bread-winner.

The family went into debt to buy Muhammad's airline ticket to the United States after he was granted a tourist visa valid for five years in 1988, said Umm-Muhammad.

Dressed in traditional Palestinian costume, she said he had since worked in a bakery, in construction, in a supermarket and lately a factory.

But the photographs in his letters show him in smartly-cut suits, in front of different homes, in well-kept apartments and finally in a two-storey red-brick house in New Jersey.

He phoned home "quite regularly." In his last letter home, Muhammad Salamah asked the family to find him a Palestinian wife to settle down with him in the United States, despite his illegal status.

Muhammad's mother said he had lived in New Jersey, at 17 Park Street, Jersey City, for the last seven months.

Jordanian authorities have vowed to cooperate with the U.S. investigation against the Palestinian-born Jordanian, who worshipped at a mosque in Jersey City headed by radical Egyptian Muslim cleric Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Israeli Involvement Seen

JN0703095593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 93 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand] [Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood Saturday condemned the Feb. 26 bombing at the World Trade Centre in New York and suggested that Israeli agents could have carried out the blast with a view to distorting the international image of Islam and Muslims.

Two Brotherhood deputies, addressing a press conference mostly devoted to Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of Palestinians to South Lebanon, also assailed Washington's decision to cut contacts with the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and moves by U.S. congressmen to bar people associated with Hamas from entering the U.S.

Hamzah Mansur and Ahmad al-Kafawin also lambasted Washington's caution advisory to Americans travelling to Jordan and demanded an apology.

The two deputies, who were among four Brotherhood deputies who recently visited the nearly 400 Palestinian exiles stranded in South Lebanon and attended a meeting in Beirut on the expulsions, said the Brotherhood, along with groups from several Arab and other countries, rejects any compromise solution to end the expulsion crisis.

"We demand the implementation of (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 799," which calls for the unconditional and immediate return of the expellees to the occupied territories," Mr. Mansur told the press conference.

He said the Beirut meeting, attended by activists from Lebanon, Palestine, Iran, Egypt, Yemen, Switzerland, Britain and several other countries, called on the Arab parties to withdraw from the Middle East peace talks with Israel regardless of the outcome of the expellee crisis.

Brotherhood deputies Hummam Sa'id and 'Abd al-Rahim 'Ukur also attended the gathering in the Lebanese capital.

On the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre, Mr. Mansur said:

"Although we disapprove and categorically reject American policies, we strongly condemn bombings targeting innocent civilians."

He suggested that Israeli agents could have been behind the bombing, which killed five people and wounded over 1,000 people.

Muhammad Salamah, 25, identified by American officials quoted by international news agencies as a Jordanian passport holder, was arraigned Thursday by a New York court in connection with the bombing.

Salamah, said to be a follower of a hardline Egyptian cleric based in New Jersey, pleaded not guilty to charges of abetting the bombing.

Mr. Mansur said the Bortherhood had no knowledge of the suspect, but added:

"Regardless of (Salamah's) passport or his place of birth, we believe that the hands of Zionist agents were behind the bombing.

"They now blame it on Muslims in order to undermine Islamic renaissance in the Arab World and distort the international image of Islam."

The Brotherhood deputy also castigated the American warning to travellers to Jordan as a move that undermines the democratisation of the Kingdom.

"The Jordanian people have never been and will never be extremists," he said. "We are hospitable people whose religion bars us from attacking innocent people."

"The American warning is interference in Jordan's internal affairs and undermines the democratisation process under way in the Kingdom," he said, calling on Washington to "apologise for its statement, which constitutes aggression on our stability and national security."

The warning was also ironic, he said, particularly that it came a few days after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited Jordan as part of a Middle East tour and praised Jordanian-American relations.

Mr. Mansur also criticised last week's U.S. decision to terminate contacts with people associated with Hamas.

The diplomatic contacts, he said, were prompted by the "success that Hamas and Islamic Jihad have achieved on the political level" in the wake of "increased resistance activities in the occupied territories" and the Dec. 17 Israeli expulsion of more than 415 Palestinians suspected of being activists of the two fundamentalist Palestinian groups.

The U.S. decision to end such dialogue was brought about by "Zionist influence," he asserted, calling on Washington to "apply logic and ascertain" whether such a course of policy bodes well for American credibility.

Mr. Mansur rejected Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) criticism of the U.S.-Hamas contacts.

"God Forgive" Yasir 'Arafat for his criticism of Hamas, Mr. Mansur said, referring to the PLO chairman as "president of Palestine."

"We hope he will deal with all Palestinian groups without a hostile attitude."

Hamas "is an independent group with its own leadership which does not take order from any party," he added.

The Islamic Resistance Movement is not a "terrorist group," he said, assailing moves launched by two American congressmen to bar its people from the U.S.

Senator Alfonse D'Amato and Representative Peter Deutsch have presented legislation to the Senate and the House of Representatives to allow for the deportation of foreigners identified as members of Hamas members in the U.S. The bill aims at amending the Immigration and Naturalisation Act to list Hamas as "terrorist group."

"We condemn these American moves against Hamas and express hope that the United States would resort to reason and credibility in dealing with the region," Mansur said.

Deputy al-Kafawin said that during their visit to the Palestinian expellees stranded in South Lebanon and living in tent camp since Dec. 17, "We found the moral strength (of the exiles) higher than ever."

"They are living in abysmal conditions," he told the press conference. "They are not getting proper food or water. They live [in] an area where is it extremely cold. Some of them are suffering from serious ailments. But the suffering has not weakened their morale and determination to resist all Israeli plans.

King Husayn Interviewed on Peace Process

JN0703210693 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2020 GMT 7 Mar 93

["Excerpts" of interview with King Husayn of Jordan by John McLaughlin on the NBC program "One on One" from Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [McLaughlin] Your Majesty, Warren Christopher says that the United States will be a full partner in the peace negotiations regarding the Middle East. The way that Secretary Baker conducted himself was described as an honest broker. Do you think that it is better to be a full partner or an honest broker?

[Husayn] I believe that the suggestion that the United States would be a full partner—although how this translates into effect, I am not quite sure—is most welcome by all concerned, and the optimism is caused by the fact that earlier on, at a very very critical stage of trying to secure peace in this region, in an earlier presidency, of President Jimmy Carter, the United States was a full partner and did contribute, I feel, at least what was achieved then.

[McLaughlin] So at this point you are generally pleased with the partnership of the United States and the new administration?

[Husayn] I am optimistic indeed.

[McLaughlin] If the Palestinians do not attend the forthcoming talks which are hopefully going to take place in April, will Jordan attend?

[Husayn] I certainly hope the Palestinians will attend. I can't see how we can resolve the Palestinian problem with the Palestinians absent. And on the other hand, the situation was created when, to help the Palestinians attend the earlier meetings, we provided an umbrella of a joint delegation, in other words a Palestinian delegation-Jordanian delegation. So it is going to be interesting to see what happens, but you can't go with half a delegation, though, from the point of view of form. And at the same time we feel very, very strongly that some of the problems have to be addressed, and hopefully they are being addressed now.

[McLaughlin] Israel is having very serious talks with Syria right now. And it looks like a resolution of their relationship may take place. If that happens in the wake of the earlier accord between Egypt and Israel, do you think that this tends to shut out the Palestinians?

[Husayn] I still hope that all these small pieces will come together in a comprehensive settlement. And that is what we are involved in trying to secure and achieve.

[McLaughlin] Do you think that the United States should encourage Syria and Israel to continue their talks?

[Husayn] I think that is obviously happening regardless, and Syria is obviously a country that is important in this region, has a problem. [sentence as heard] But I believe that all of us have sought since the first move by Egypt, and had it not taken place then, we were seeking a comprehensive settlement, in other words to get it all together and I hope that at this time we will not fail to do so.

[McLaughlin] But you see the danger for the Palestinians.

[Husayn] I would certainly not view a solution as complete unless the Palestinian aspect of the problem in terms of Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil are addressed and unless there is a solution to the Palestinian problem.

[McLaughlin] Well, Jordan has problems with Israel. Jordan could proceed on its own track as Syria is doing with Israel to resolve its problems. Would Jordan do that?

[Husayn] Jordan is proceeding, but the idea that we have had all along is that our delegations should discuss every aspect of the problem and how to arrive at solutions, and to cover as much ground as possible without ratifying any final agreement until all the different parts of the jigsaw puzzle are put together in terms of the others concerned. We really would like to see an end to what is happening, and we really would like to see a comprehensive peace in this region.

[McLaughlin] A final question before we move on and that is, on this point of bilateral talks, certainly, it exerts great leverage on the Palestinians to tailor and perhaps reduce their demands in the wake of a settlement between Syria and Israel, don't you think?

[Husayn] I think that the Palestinians are the party that has been most adversely affected and has suffered most. So, for others who might historically have pushed the Palestinians to go along with hopes to achieve more, and for them to drop them, is something that I don't think is ethical myself.

[McLaughlin] Do you think talks will resume in April, Your Majesty?

[Husayn] I hope so, I hope so.

[McLaughlin] Do you think there will be a peace agreement this year?

[Husayn] I honesty can't tell. But, I really hope that it won't be long in coming.

[McLaughlin] Your Majesty: It appears that your popularity in Jordan has never been greater than it is today, and it has grown over the last four years. It is said that with the parliamentary elections of 1989, and the democratization efforts that you have made since then are really appreciated by your people. During the Gulf war, they liked the position that you took. In addition to that, you did not apologize to the Saudi Arabians for taking that position when they were soliciting an expression of regret on Your Majesty's part. On November the 30th this year, you are welcoming not only an election, but political parties into existence. Is that correct?

[Husayn] That is correct, yes.

[McLaughlin] Some 50 may be in existence.

[Husayn] I hope not.

[McLaughlin] Do you ride your motorcycle?

[Husayn] The weather hasn't permitted, but I have ridden since [words indistinct].

[McLaughlin] In addition to those reasons for your popularity, about—you can correct me if I am wrong—anywhere from 200,000 to 500,000 Kuwaiti Palestinians have been exiled from or banished from Kuwait and they have come in here, and they like you, and they are sophisticated, and they—a lot of them are monied—and they are well trained. So, you put all this together and you are now at the peak of your popularity. Do you believe that to be the case as you look over your last 40 years?

[Husayn] It is a strange moment in a way. I think that I have been blessed by a great deal of affection and concern. And I never thought that I would see the kind of feelings manifest themselves here in this country during my lifetime. I had always prayed that long after I am gone, people will say that he did a good job and he did his best.

[McLaughlin] A million people turned out.

[Husayn] Well, certainly it was very very overwhelming, very very moving, very very moving.

[McLaughlin] Do you think that you could reintroduce, is the stage set for a reintroduction of the 1972 United Arab Kingdom plan?

[Husayn] I have made it very very clear, sir, that this is something that the future will have to take care of; in other words, when Palestinians in the occupied territories secure their rights. Here in Jordan all the elements that make this country, all the members of the Jordanian family as such, regardless of their origins, are members of one family, enjoying a life of freedom, democracy, popular power sharing, and movement toward pluralism, and respect for human rights. But, at the right time, in the future, when people are free, they can decide. Up to then, we will not do anything to alter the facts.

[McLaughlin] That plan called for a confederation between the West Bank and Jordan. Is that right?

[Husayn] That was one of three options. Either return to union, which I didn't believe was feasible or practicable, and ....

[McLaughlin, interrupting] By union, you mean?

[Husayn] To the West Bank and the East Bank coming together, as was the case before 1967; or a federation between Palestine and Jordan, which I thought was more of a possibility and made much more sense, as far as all of us were concerned, or most of us were concerned; or an independent Palestinian state if Palestinians so wished. So, these were the three options and only God knows what will happen.

[McLaughlin] If you establish a plausibility in theory one would say that the most plausible arrangement now seems to be that, down the line, the West Bank, in considerable part—the Israelis are now talking about 62 percent, perhaps 70 percent—would be autonomous, and a confederation or federation with Jordan would come into existence, which will be pleasing to Israel, probably pleasing to most of the elements of your own population, and even acceptable to the West Bank. That being the case, with the further passage of time, there would be even that blurring of the line and the West Bank would be part of Jordan, and then Amman would be the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Palestine and Jordan. Isn't that really what the future holds?

[Husayn] I honestly can't tell what the future holds. Amman was always the capital. Jersualem was the spiritual capital in the past. And Jordan has always supported the Palestinians regarding their rights on their soil, and we will continue to do so, sir, throughout, until a solution is finally formulated. And then, we are talking about the kind of peace that would transcend this entire region to create something entirely different to everything and anything that we have experienced, all of us for so long.

[McLaughlin] Would that be some kind of a Benelux arrangement, do you think?

[Husayn] There are are all sorts of possibilities, sir, but....

[McLaughlin, interrupting] Perhaps a a free market?

[Husayn] There is no limit to what is possible if the foundation is justice and people securing their rights.

[McLaughlin] There are those who feel that by the year, say 2020, 2010, maybe the year 2000, that the configuration that I have described, which is really one of the options of the 1972 United Arab Kingdom plan that you proposed, may be the reality, with the possibility of a free trade zones, everyone benefiting.

[Husayn] Everything is possible, you can go to a full extent of looking at the optimistic side or the pessimistic side. If we don't make the breakthrough very, very soon, I believe the results are going to be disastrous for this entire region, may be for the world. There is no more time to lose. I believe that all the sides of the divide has it with people now realizing that we must move and move soon, so let us hope. And if we can put it on a solid foundation, where people can live with it and protect it on either side of the divide, then we have the kind of peace that this region—as far as I was concerned it was always a dream—but there are no limits to what is possible.

[McLaughlin] Do you feel that you will follow the Constitution?

[Husayn] I feel that I have always tried to respect the Constitution and uphold it, and this will be the case. The important thing beyond me is that there is a crown prince, who is really a part of me, who is my brother, Prince Hasan. Beyond that, what is a uniting factor in Jordan is the Hashemite family that is above all differences in the country and has served to be a unifying factor in Jordan. I have always believed that nobody is immortal, and life is such. So Prince Hasan became crown prince, and he has been the greatest pillar of support throughout all the years that have passed, and hopefully he will continue to play this role in the future. For as long as I am alive, he is a crown prince. And after that, he can take over. And beyond that, I think things again will shape up in the best interests of Jordan.

[McLaughlin] Where will democracy end here? Will Jordan be a parliamentary democracy?

[Husayn] The king heads the three elements of government, the legislative, the legal system, and at the same time the administration. As far as I am concerned, I have become the father figure in this country. I will protect democracy, and I will try to ensure that Jordanians make of democracy here an example to others in this entire region.

[McLaughlin] Thank you so much for being my guest on "One on One."

[Husayn] Thank you, sir. Thank you so very much.

Comments on Health

JN0703094093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 93 pp 1, 5

[Excerpts] Washington (Agencies)—Jordan is unlikely to attend Middle East peace talks with Israel next month unless Palestinians also take part, His Majesty King Husayn said in an interview published Friday.

In the interview, to be broadcast on Sunday's edition of John McLaughlin's One on One on NBC, King Husayn noted that Jordan and the Palestinians formally constituted a joint delegation in the talks, though they conduct the actual negotiations separately.

"I certainly hope the Palestinians will attend. I don't see how we can resolve the Palestinian problem with the Palestinians absent," he said.

"You can't go with half a delegation, if only from the point of view of form," the King added. A transcript of the interview was made available to news organisations Friday. [passage omitted]

Asked whether he thought the talks would take place in April, King Husayn said: "I hope so. I hope so."

The King, who has recently recovered from a major surgery, said he was almost back to normal physically.

"It has taken quite a bit of time to get over the results of the surgery in terms of the fatigue and so on. My endurance was not the same as it was before I fell ill," he said.

"But I have been assured that there was no trace of cancer found during the last checkup that I had." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Reiterates Stand on Deportees

JN0603200093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi. Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir attended.

The foreign minister briefed the committee on Jordanian, Arab, and international developments since the beginning of the deportee issue and until the visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The minister reiterated Jordan's clear stand, which calls for making a breakthrough on the issue of the deportees and for returning them to their homeland before the resumption of bilateral talks, expected to convene next month.

The committee called for resuming Arab coordination among the parties directly involved in the peace process, and for exerting continuous efforts to achieve a unified Arab stand to deal with regional issues with a comprehensive pan-Arab perspective.

The committee stressed that any progress in the talks will lead to a genuine peace process if Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are implemented, in accordance with international legitimacy and realizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The committee urged the permanent members of the Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities to implement their binding resolutions on any UN member state, in accordance with international legitimacy, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

The meeting was held at the committee's request.

Al-Masri Says U.S. Warning Issued by 'Junior Bureaucrats'

JN0603211893 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1850 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Interview with Tahir al-Masri, former prime minister and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the House of Representatives, by Murid Hammad carried within the "Perspectives" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Hammad] How much do you see the American Administration's commitment to restart the peace talks and keep it going, at least in the same pace as it used to be during the Bush administration?

[Al-Masri] This is a new administration. Our major indication came from the visit of Secretary Christopher to the area, and he meant to make his first foreign trip, or outside trip, to the area to show that they are really committed to the peace process. And this is his talk with the Jordanian leader, with his majesty, and with other leaders.

And, as I said before, we have to test them. They said so, we have to see action. And verbally, such commitment is not enough, we have to see it on the table. And we are waiting to see, for April, what's going to happen.

[Hammad] During Secretary Christopher's visit to Jordan, he made some very encouraging remarks about the relations between Jordan and the United States, and the return to normalcy which has afflicted the relations between both countries since the Gulf war and Gulf crisis. [sentence as heard] Only a few days ago, the U.S. State Department warned American nationals against travel to Jordan for fear of terrorism. And this statement was received with extreme concern in Jordan. Would you like to comment on the statement and on what you feel the fact that has led to such a statement being issued by the State Department?

[Al-Masri] It was an amazing statement, and I didn't believe what I heard. And I thought maybe they are mixed up in Washington about Jordan. Maybe they mean another country. Christopher was here, their embassy knows that they are safe here and there is no security problem in Jordan. And I was waiting the next day to say: No, we meant another country. But, of course, they did not change that. And I believe that some junior bureaucrats in the State Department have made that assessment and they just announce it. Not only that it was wrong, but it was wrong in the way that you deal with another country. You cannot just stand like this and say: There is a problem there and we have asked Americans not to go. This is not the diplomatic way, this is not the way that countries deal with each other, and I expect that the Jordanian Government should be very forceful, very aggressive, in pursuing this matter. And I think the State Department should change that very soon. In fact, the higher echelon of the State Department, they should see how this statement was issued on the assessment of junior bureaucrats. Was it done in good faith or in bad faith? If it was done in bad faith then we have to make an interference again. But, it was an amazing statement, and it is totally wrong. And the American Administration, or the State Department, has to do something about it.

[Hammad] Particularly at this time of our lives, when we are enjoying the increasing peacefulness of the country and the increasing security that we feel, whether as citizens of the country or as visitors. I mean we have not had, may God forbid, any bombings or attacks, or any threats to anybody's life. This was the reason why I asked you, because everybody felt very awkward about the statement from this perspective.

[Al-Masri] Yes, Murid. But not only us know this, the Americans themselves, they know that about Jordan. The secretary of state himself said it. So, it was a strange statement.

[Hammad] And would you expect that we will receive any clarifications from the American Administration through the embassy?

[Al-Masri] Supposedly, we should have already received clarifications, but I don't know if we did or not, and what was the nature of such clarifications.

[Hammad] And how much impact do you think this will have on the renewed relationship between the United States and Jordan? Do you think it will be just a passing cloud?

[Al-Masri] Yes, I think so, because they will realize they made a mistake, quickly they will realize that and the relations will not be affected.

[Hammad] And many people—the reason why I asked you this—many people thought that this was part of the campaign against Jordan. We've seen it for the past two years every now and then. Somebody will come up in a major American newspaper and publish a report that Jordan is smuggling weapons to Iraq, and then after the damage is done, somebody will come up and say that we don't have any intelligence, or political, or anything to corroborate this claim. Many people feel that this statement is part of that campaign that is directed against Jordan.

[Al-Masri] It might be, and this is why I am saying that the higher echelon in the States Department should look into this matter, how such a statement by junior employees came out publicly like this. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri Views Peace Process, UN Resolutions

NC0503184493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has affirmed that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Lebanon and other states in the region is important for the peace issue.

At a meeting with Arab correspondents in Lebanon, the prime minister said Secretary Christopher has informed Lebanese officials that his country will play the role of a full partner. Christopher also has reiterated the assurances which previous Lebanese Governments had received concerning the implementation of Resolution 425, al-Hariri added.

Al-Hariri said that the national resistance in the south is the result of the Israeli occupation, adding: As long as our land is occupied, we cannot ask Lebanese citizens to hand over their weapons in an area occupied by the enemy.

Al-Hariri described as inaccurate and untrue the talk that the confidence which his government won more than 100 days ago has been shaken. Confidence is consolidated day after day, and it is inadmissible to judge the government as a result of some incidents that are solved immediately, al-Hariri noted. He pointed out that the government is proceeding in accordance with specific and sound programs. He emphasized that there will be no changes or amendments in the government at present.

Al-Hariri said that the World Bank's loan is proof of the confidence that has been restored to Lebanon. He reiterated that his task is to transfer the confidence that has been placed in him to the government institutions. The prime minister urged the Lebanese not to surrender, noting that peace has its factors and we must be ready for them, because the struggle for peace is more complicated than that waged during war.

Replying to a question, al-Hariri said that partition is not possible and neither is the issue of resettlement [of Palestinians]. Lebanon cannot endure the resettlement of Palestinians in view of its special multisect structure. He said that Lebanon is a sovereign independent state and no one can impose anything on it.

To another question about the Arab-Israeli negotiations, al-Hariri said: We support the negotiations, and we will go to these negotiations, but we insist that Resolution 799 be implemented. What concerns us is that the deportees should not enter the Lebanese territory that is under state control.

Asked if the process of reconstruction and development could be achieved without establishing peace with Israel, al-Hariri said: Israel wants Lebanon to stay as it is so that we will be forced to reach peace with it. Israel also wants us to stay weak so it can easily devour us. This is not permissible as far as we are concerned. We have occupied territory that we are trying to regain with the available capabilities. At the same time we are strengthening ourselves so we can achieve this.

The prime minister added: Where does Lebanon stand if peace is achieved in the region? Peace has its tools, and we must be prepared for it because the battle of peace is more complex than war. Peace is complicated and has its own supporters. We want to live in peace, while Israel is the one that occupied part of our land. Israel says that as long as there are some Lebanese resisting this occupation, it must quell them. We will not do that because our dignity, ethics, and traditions prevent us from carrying out such an act as long as Israel continues to occupy part of our land.

Al-Hariri added that the question of granting citizenship depends on what the Lebanese want. No one can force us to grant Lebanese citizenship to anyone whom the Lebanese do not want. We must not take the will of the Lebanese people lightly, because if we disregard the existence of this will, there will be no sense in talking about a homeland, as the disappearance of Lebanese will means the disappearance of the homeland.

The government, al-Hariri added, is now in the process of dealing with the question of citizenship. We hope that the new citizenship law will be fair and will solve the problem, which goes back to independence days. It is hoped that we can put an end to the hardships suffered as a result of not resolving the status of those who are without citizenship.

Regarding the al-Ta'if agreement and the fact that part of the Lebanese people are not convinced about it, al-Hariri said: No one in a position of responsibility in the state does not believe in the Constitution. There no longer is anything called agreement. Its name has become constitution. The al-Ta'if agreement gave birth to the present Lebanese Constitution. There are some articles that are unconstitutional, but they do constitute a kind of national agreement. What is important is that no one should try to change the Constitution by armed force. The state will not permit anyone to do that. We have democratic methods. For those who do not agree, there will be elections in less than four years. Let them stand for election. If they become a majority in the Chamber of Deputies, they can then amend the Constitution. This is not difficult. Any attempt to amend the Constitution by other means will fail. The Lebanese no longer have any desire for war. In their minds, the war has ended. It is not correct to say that this is a final constitution. If those who oppose it can mobilize enough support and can master more than two-thirds of the members of the Chamber of Deputies in some future elections, they can then amend the Constitution. They can do whatever they want. Whoever has the majority in the Chamber of Deputies—that is, more than two-thirds majority—can do whatever they wish.

Regarding the redeployment of the Syrian forces according to the al-Ta'if agreement, al-Hariri said: We are unable to ask the Syrians to redeploy their forces as long as we do not have sufficient security forces to ensure security in the various parts of the Republic. He noted that if military aid for the Army and the internal security forces is received, there no longer will be a problem in this regard.

He noted in this respect that since the al-Ta'if agreement, Lebanon has not received considerable aid to help it stand on its own feet. Everything that Lebanon has received has been through grants. It has received $160 million from Saudi Arabia and has signed loan agreements with the Kuwaiti Fund and the Arab Fund.

In his interview with Arab correspondents in Beirut, al-Hariri also referred to the issue of the displaced. He said that preparations are under way for a bill imposing specific taxes to finance the displaced people's fund to speed up their return.

Asked whether the issue of appointments has become a sectarian issue, al-Hariri explained that there certain posts that are assigned to Sunnis, Shiites, Druze, Maronites, Orthodox, Catholics, Armenians, and others. We must choose the most competent among these people to fill these posts. Al-Hariri denied that there is any problem regarding the appointments.

Finally, al-Hariri stressed that the history of the country is made by its people, and not by events beyond its will.

Buwayz Briefs Parliamentary Committee on U.S. Assurances

NC0503192393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Speculations about the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Lebanon continue to cast a shadow on the local political scene, particularly as Christopher did not, in his news conference at the time, refer to UN Security Council Resolution 425. Lebanese officials consider this resolution the basis of their bilateral negotiations with Israel. [passage omitted]

Today the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee held a prolonged session to discuss Christopher's visit, the U.S. position on Resolution 425 and the peace talks, and the proposals raised during Christopher's talks with Lebanese officials at the Lebanese Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah.

A detailed report on the committee meeting follows:

The Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Affairs Committee held a meeting at 1000 today under the chairmanship of Dr. Amin al-Hafiz. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz attended the meeting. The committee urged the Lebanese Government to publish the official U.S. letter of assurances to Lebanon pertaining to the bilateral negotiations with Israel so that everyone can know that the only point of reference was Resolution 425 and that other issues raised since the negotiations began have been intrusive and transient matters that were not accepted by any official Lebanese body, particularly the Chamber of Deputies.

Committee Chairman Amin al-Hafiz explained that the demand to publish the contents of the letter followed fears about the fate of Resolution 425, particularly as Israel has circumvented UN Security Council Resolution 799 and is seeking to evade implementing Resolution 425. He added that in previous rounds of talks the Israeli negotiating delegation proposed signing a separate peace treaty with Lebanon and offered to normalize all types of relations and to form joint security and military committees that would be separate from the negotiating delegations. He noted that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced, following a meeting with U.S. officials in Washington last month, that agreement over territorial matters is neither sufficient nor acceptable by itself and that there also must be agreements on matters pertaining to water resources and residents.

Al-Hafiz wondered what link there is between such Israeli proposals and the unambiguous Resolution 425, which refers only to an unconditional Israeli withdrawal and restoring full Lebanese authority and sovereignty. He noted that the Americans remained silent vis-a-vis these Israeli proposals as if they did not notice them and did not utter one word of reproach to Israel or make it negotiate within the context of the U.S. assurances.

Al-Hafiz said it is not strange that loud denunciations were heard following Warren Christopher's visit to Lebanon, because he failed to speak publicly of Resolution 425 and diverted attention from it by speaking about the al-Ta'if agreement, although he is aware of this resolution's vital importance to the Lebanese. Al-Hafiz noted that when Christopher visited Cairo, Amman, and Damascus, he asserted that his country's government will be a full partner in the peace negotiations on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Buwayz responded by pointing out that Christopher repeated previous U.S. assurances and the U.S. commitment to a just and comprehensive peace, restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He remarked that when Christopher reiterated the assurances about Resolution 425 and the U.S. commitment to a full Israeli withdrawal, the Lebanese officials did not sense any ambiguity in his assurances. [passage omitted]

Regarding the formation of a joint Lebanese-Israeli security committee, Buwayz affirmed that he does not object to it on condition that its task be the implementation of Resolution 425 according to a timetable and that Israel make a public commitment, guaranteed by the United States, to withdraw within a specified period.

The Foreign Affairs Committee members asked Minister Buwayz several questions about the bilateral negotiations, the U.S. Administration's policy and its stand on the Middle East crisis, and about the attempt to equate the Israeli occupation with the Syrian military presence in Lebanon.

Buwayz answered by saying that Christopher's visit had a dual purpose. He came to be briefed on earlier negotiations and also to reassert the U.S. commitments.

Concerning the militias issue, Buwayz said there is a clear difference between the Lebanese and U.S. positions on the militias. He said the United States considers Hizballah a militia. In contrast, Lebanon believes that resistance is a legitimate practice as long as there is occupation.

Finally, Buwayz announced that Lebanon has not yet received an invitation to attend a meeting of the cordon states or the agenda of this proposed meeting. He said this is linked with the issuance of invitations to resume the bilateral negotiations, noting that when the invitations are sent a date will be set for a meeting of the cordon states.

Hizballah, Amal Clash in Southern Suburb

NC0703072193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] A disagreement between Hizballah and Amal elements in the al-Jam'i quarter in Beirut's southern suburb developed into a clash involving light weapons and hand grenades at 2000 yesterday.

Amal Movement sources said the disagreement occurred between Hizballah elements and ordinary citizens in al-Tayyunah at 1730 yesterday followed by Hizballah elements being placed on alert in the area. Contacts were then held with internal security forces, which sent patrols to the area and contained the incident.

The Amal sources added that at 2030, several Hizballah military groups opened fire on Amal offices in 'Abd-al-Karim Khalil and As'ad al-As'ad Streets, wounding a citizen.

Army Command Issues Statement

NC0703111093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate has issued the following statement: On the night of 6-7 March 1993, in al-Ghubayrah-al-Shiyah area [in Beirut's southern suburb], unruly Amal and Hizballah elements exploited the security gaps accompanying the replacement of the Lebanese Army units stationed there by other units. A clash ensued during which some light weapons were used. The Army forces in charge of the area's security have raided several buildings and are now pursuing the following persons: Ibrahim Zayn- al-Din, Husayn Ja'far, Hadi Kanj, Hisham Fahs, Wisam al-Musawi, Muhammad Jawad, Hasan al-'Ajm, Ghassan 'Abd-al-Satir, Tariq 'Azzu, Mahmud Farhat, 'Abd al-Mi'ushi, Tawfiq Midlij, Nafiz Shamas, Mahmud Qays, Ghassan Zu'aytar, Muhammad al-Mustarah, Hasan al-Zayn, Mahmud Salih alias al-Habshiti, and others involved in the incident.

The Army Command reasserts that those who disturb public peace and order inside the country are as guilty as the Israeli enemy in the south. Consequently, it will not hesitate to deal decisively with any clash, regardless of its causes or justifications.

Amal's Birri Comments

NC0703184693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The Army has initiated patrols and established checkpoints in various areas of the southern suburb. They also conducted a search for persons wanted in connection with the clash that took place last evening between Hizballah and Amal Movement members. Between 1330 and 1730 today, the Army blocked all approaches to al-Shiyah, conducted searches, and established checkpoints along the coastal road, particularly at the al-Damur Bridge and the Wadi al-Zaynah, Barjah, and al-Jiyah intersections.

A security source said this evening that some of the fugitives have been handed over to the Army Command, bringing the number detained in the incident to 11. [passage omitted]

Nabih Birri, Chamber of Deputies speaker and leader of the Amal Movement, has expressed hope that what happened in the southern suburb will not be repeated. He also hoped that the Army will adopt appropriate measures to deter offenders, end violations, and maintain security.

Yesterday Birri indirectly criticized Hizballah, saying that the resistance is not a blind weapon and must not harm Lebanon's interests. He maintained that the security and military forces must be allowed to conduct their security duties. He also affirmed that any weapon outside the resistance framework is a weapon against Lebanon.

Israeli Helicopters Attack PFLP-GC Center in Sidon

NC0603115393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1134 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] At 1250 today, four Israeli Cobra helicopters raided the area of 'Ayn al-Hulwah in Sidon. NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents have reported that the Israeli helicopters fired four radio-guided air-to-surface missiles at the western region of the upper and lower streets of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, the camp's northern entrance, and the area of al-Bustan al-Yahudi, in the camp's northwestern region.

The attack was accompanied by helicopter sorties over the camp and the city of Sidon, in which the sound of explosions was heard clearly.

Our correspondent reports that ambulances and civil defense vehicles immediately headed to the targeted area, where a center belonging to the Ahmad Jibril-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has reportedly sustained heavy material damage.

Two Injured

NC0603185293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Excerpt] For the first time since the Lebanese Army deployed in the area in 1991, Israeli enemy Cobra helicopters raided 'Ayn al- Hulwah camp in Sidon, injuring two people: Palestinian Husayn Hasan and Siham Jizzini, a Lebanese woman. Ten cars were damaged in the raid. According to information in Sidon, the attack targeted a speed boat in front of a supply center for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC]. The PFLP-GC, however, denied that it owns the boat. [passage omitted]

Fatah Officer Target of Assassination Attempt in Camp

NC0603102893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Fatah military officer Lieutenant Colonel Abu-Husayn Farhud was the target of an assassination attempt inside the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. He was hit by several bullets and a companion was killed. Farhud was taken to the Sa'd Sayil hospital inside the camp.

Fatah security forces immediately raided several homes in the camp.

Hizballah Official Says No Prisoner Swap With Israel

NC0803092293 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 6 Mar 93 p 5

[Excerpt] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has accused Israel of refusing to resolve the issue of prisoners and detainees. Qasim denied there have been contacts between Hizballah and Israel about an exchange of prisoners and detainees. [passage omitted]

SLA Force Advances, Establishes Roadblock in South

NC0503215093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] According to security reports from the south, a force belonging to the Agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army—SLA] advanced from its position on al-Shaqif hill toward Birkat Arnun, where it established a roadblock and searched and questioned people.

Hizballah Radio Questions Arrest of Salamah

NC0703110893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Judging by what has been published and broadcast to date about the explosion at New York's World Trade Center, observers agree that the proof on the strength of which U.S. authorities arrested the young man Muhammad Salamah is feeble. U.S. accounts say police arrested Salamah while he was trying to get a refund he had paid to rent the van that was subsequently stolen from him. The accounts add that when Salamah rented the van, he used his true name and gave his true address and telephone number. We ask: Is it reasonable for a person or group planning such an operation in downtown New York, the capital of the new despotic and tyrannical world order, to simply give these details? Is it reasonable for the person who is supposed to be the main clue in the case to return and jeopardize himself out of ignorance simply to get a refund on a small sum of money? These questions increase the doubts about the validity of the charges against Salamah and indicate a vile conspiracy against the Islamic world designed to smear it with a terrorist violent label without clear proof or valid, reasonable, or concrete accusation. Indeed, one can say that all the scenes that have so far unfolded show that this U.S. farce was very badly written and directed. All this was done to satisfy the compulsive appetite of influential people in the U.S. Administration.

Since the USSR collapsed and the Cold War ended, the U.S. Government has been searching for an enemy to protect its gains and foreign and domestic interests. It is currently sparing no effort to provide proof, even if it is distorted and deficient, that Islam is the new enemy replacing communism. It constantly asserts that this enemy is that posing the greatest threat to democracy. These and other accusations expose the practices of successive U.S. administrations against the world's oppressed nations. The U.S. accusations and name calling, repeated by its hired media, will remain a feature of the world arrogance sponsored by successive U.S. administrations. The best proof of this is the series of tragedies and calamities afflicting oppressed nations and the sequence of brutal massacres perpetrated by Zionist troops under direct U.S. patronage in Palestine and south Lebanon, by the Serbs in Bosnia- Hercegovina, and in Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, and Tunisia at the hands of bloody dictatorships intimately linked with the Central Intelligence Agency. Add to this the starving millions in Somalia and other African countries and those afflicted by epidemics in Asia. All this is the direct or indirect result of the policies of the United States which, in the words of Imam Khomenyi, may his soul be sanctified, is the mother of corruption.

One last word: These false and preposterous charges against Islam and Islamists are nothing more than mere

bubbles of air in the midst of the deluge of sacred wrath until the day when the state of divine justice is established worldwide at the hands of the lord of the ages and humanity is delivered from these satanic blights. The world will then be full of fairness and justice in the wake of inequity.

Al-Rantisi Claims Mosad Staged U.S. Blast

NC0803075693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Rainstorms demolished some tents and water leaked into others at the deportees' camp in Marj al-Zuhur yesterday. Among the ruined tents was one that accommodated 150 people and was used as a mosque. The deportees worked hard to rebuild and rearrange their tents.

Media spokesman Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said the option of resistance against the Zionist occupation is the only way to liberation. In a radio statement, al-Rantisi said the Jordanian position, which links return to the peace negotiations with the return of the deportees to their homes, means the Palestinian delegation will be blamed if it changes its position on the resumption of the talks, which the Palestinian people reject.

Dr. al-Rantisi said there is a Zionist campaign against Islamists, especially in the United States. He said the Zionist Mosad was behind the New York explosion, which was designed to drive the American authorities to put pressure on everything relating to Islam.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad reaffirmed the need to implement Security Council Resolution 799 on the immediate return of the Palestinian deportees. Islamic Jihad Secretary General Fathi al-Shiqaqi told AFP that the two movements met in Damascus and stressed the immediate return of all the deportees. He said there is a need to pressure the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks so that it will not attend the next round of negotiations. He reiterated rejection of partial solutions to the deportees problem.

Source Says Germany To Free Hammadi Brothers Early

NC0703213393 Paris AFP in English 2120 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Beirut, March 7 (AFP) - Two Lebanese Shiite brothers convicted in Germany on terrorism charges, Muhammad and 'Abbas Hammadi, will be released from prison by the end of this year, an informed Lebanese Government source said Sunday.

The source said 'Abbas, who was sentenced to 13 years jail in 1988 for taking part in the kidnapping of German nationals in Lebanon and for possession of explosives, would be freed on August 8.

His term was being cut for good behaviour but he would be stripped of his German nationality through marriage, the source told AFP.

Muhammad, jailed in 1988 for a life term for his role in the hijacking of a U.S. airliner and the murder of a passenger, is to be released a few months later, the source said.

Kidnappers linked to the Hammadi family had demanded the release of the brothers, jailed in Saarbruecken, in exchange for two German hostages in Lebanon, Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig.

Under Iranian pressure, the Germans were freed in June 1992, with Germany rejecting any deal. The jail conditions has since been improved for the two Hammadi brothers.

Afghanistan

Islamic Unity Party Demands Top Ministerial Post

LD0803122993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] In an interview with the Voice and Vision's correspondent in Kabul today, Mr. Mazari, the secretary general of the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami], assessed the meeting of the leaders of jehadi groups in Islamabad as positive. He said: In view of the fact that the measures approved in the Islamabad conference were signed by the decisive majority of the parties, including the representative of the Islamic Unity Party, we accept it, but the details of several points remain ambiguous, and if they are not attended to, there will be no guarantee for a lasting peace. Mr. Mazari noted that, apart from the president and prime minister, the positions of the cabinet members have not been made clear. Second, the future of the National-Islamic Movement of the North has not been clarified, and its position must be made clear. Third, the criteria for selecting representatives to Afghanistan's parliament must be stipulated in the agreement. The secretary general of the Islamic Unity Party said the following about his party's position in the make-up of the future government: The rightful share of a considerable section of the population of Afghanistan who are represented by the Islamic Unity Party must be given to it; thus, one of the top six posts must be given to the Islamic Unity Party. Of course, we have no quarrel about which post it should be.

Reportage on Continuing Fighting in Kabul, Environs

Hezb-e Eslami Forces Claim Success

LD0503132993 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] In line with their repeated violations of the cease-fire, the coalition forces continued their savage attacks last night by launching heavy weapon attacks on the eastern and southern areas of Kabul.

A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports from the Chilsaton areas in the south and east of Kabul that the coalition forces carried out a series of failed attacks from 2100 to 0300 last night, resorting to heavy weapons in the process. These attacks were pushed back by our Muslim and heroic mojahedin. It is reported that the coalition headed by communist generals and [Defense Minister Ahmad Shah] Mas'ud, who do not want the peace talks and negotiations to come to a successful conclusion, launched heavy weapon attacks on the positions of the Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin from the Dasht-e Chamtala television tower hill and other military regions. They also resorted to offensive attacks in some residential areas.

After an hour of restraint and patience our Muslim mojahedin embarked on retaliatory attacks which led to the defeat of the coalition and their full retreat. As a result of these treacherous attacks by the coalition, loss of life and considerable material damage were inflicted on our defenseless people. Also as a result of retaliatory attacks by Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin, the coalition forces sustained many casualties and material damage.

The reports adds that our heroic mojahedin have captured three important strategic posts in the Arzan Qaymat region, areas of radio short waves [as heard], Maghaza, and two other important posts in southern Kabul. Furthermore, mojahedin have also captured a number of armed men of the coalition.

The report goes on to say that coalition forces have carried out savage attacks on the positions and areas under the control of Hezb- e Wadaht-e Eslami, particularly in Afshar and the surrounding area. The attacks have caused casualties among the defenseless people. After a shameful defeat in these areas, the coalition forces were forced to retreat from the battlefields. The report adds that this morning the coalition forces resorted to yet another failed attack on the eastern areas of Kabul. They faced strong resistance by our heroic mojahedin. As a result of these retaliatory attacks the coalition forces fled the battle area our heroic mojahedin captured several strategic points. The coalition forces sustained great loss of life and material damage. Although the coalition forces were badly defeated in this battle and to a large extent have lost the ability to launch another attack, our Muslim mojahedin are fully ready for any type of enemy attacks.

Cease-Fire Breaches Reported

LD0503165993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] At a time when the present conflicts of our dear country, Islamic Afghanistan, are being discussed in the course of talks among Esteemed Professor Burhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan, and other esteemed jehadi groups with the mediation of the neighboring countries, and while the talks are closer to acheiving good results, opportunist and adventurist elements of Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] and Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] breached the cease-fire last night and embarked on an offensive on positions of the forces of the Islamic army.

Quoting an authoritative source in the Defense Ministry, the Military Section of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that the rebellious forces of Hezb-e Eslami resorted to launching an offensive from the east on positions of forces of the Islamic army with heavy weapons. Their offensive failed and was pushed back as a result of the resistance shown by forces of the Islamic army.

Then, the opportunist section of Hezb-e Wahdat joined forces with rebellious forces of Hezb-e Eslami and

resorted to a series of attacks in the directions of the southeast region of Kabul city and launched missiles on residential areas of Kabul. Their offensive was foiled as a result of resistance shown by the forces of the Islamic army and they were forced to retreat.

The source adds that forces of the Islamic army fully observed the recent statement issued by the state on observation of the cease-fire and have respected the peaceful efforts by the delegations from neighboring countries and only responded to the other side's attacks.

Four Killed in Rocket Attack

LD0503162693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The opportunist and adventurist sections of Hezb-e Wahdat and Hezb-e Eslami launched missiles at Kabul last night.

An authoritative source has told a BAKHTAR military correspondent that last night the opportunist and adventurist elements fired 38 rounds of missiles and mortars at Kabul. This came after several days of quiet and without any regard for the sacred month of Ramadan, at a time while the people of Kabul were engaged in the recitation of the holy Koran. As a result of the attack, four of our innocent compatriots were martyred and 17 others were injured.

The report adds that in addition to the loss of life considerable material damage was also inflicted by this missile attack. Three houses located in the 11th ward of the city were completely destroyed.

Second Day of Fighting

BK0603143593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 6 Mar 93

[By Ismael Iraqi]

[Text] Kabul, March 6 (AFP)—Rival mojahedin factions fired from dark to dawn on a section of Kabul in a second straight day of fighting, government commanders at the front said on Saturday.

The renewed attack followed six hours of rocket and artillery fire on Thursday, killing at least one person and injuring five.

Thursday's fighting followed four days of intense peace talks in Pakistan between rival factions, which ended without full agreement.

Rocket and artillery fire, which began on Friday evening and lasted some seven hours, fell on the southern Chelsitoon section of Kabul, an area also targeted in fighting on Thursday.

"The clashes started at 9:30 p.m. and continued until morning," Muhamad Akbar, a government commander at the front, told AFP on Saturday.

Two of his soldiers were injured, Akbar said, adding the number of Hezb-e Eslami casualties was unclear.

Akbar said a "wandering holy man", approaching from a nearby train station was killed by a Russian-made RBG-7 rocket.

"We ordered to stop but he didn't obey," Akbar said.

"We thought he was a soldier for the Hezb-e Eslami."

Government forces and Hezb-e Eslami, the rebel faction of Golboddin Hekmatyar, both denied responsibility for the renewal of hostilities on Thursday and Friday.

All was quiet on the front lines between government forces and Hezb-e Wahdat, the pro-Iranian Shi'ite faction.

Most participants of peace talks in Islamabad agreed to allow Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani to retain his post for a further 18 months, with arch-rival Hekmatyar as prime minister.

Negotiations stalled over the distribution of ministerial portfolios between various factions.

Meanwhile, in a simple ceremony inside the Ministry of Defence, two Russians, both taken prisoner in northern Afghanistan in 1984, were released.

Both have converted to Islam and taken Moslem names, a defence ministry spokesman said.

Viktor Nazarbayov, a 27-year-old Ukranian, and Vulcu Leonid, 29 and from Moldova, have both converted to Islam and taken the names Muhamad Islam and Aziza-llah, respectively, a defence ministry aide said.

Doctor Abdullah, a senior defence ministry aide, said Kabul was not expecting any war reparations in return for the prisoners: "Because of purely humanitarian motives, we decided to release them."

He said the number of prisoners from the former Soviet Union, which invaded Afghanistan in 1979, held by all mojahedin groups totalled no more than 20, not 80 as put forth by Russian sources.

Tehran Reports Overnight Clashes

LD0703124193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] The latest report from Kabul states that the forces of the various Afghan groups subjected one another's positions to heavy weapons fire from 1900 last night until this morning. Dozens of artillery shells and rockets hit Kabul in the course of these exchanges. We have not received any further information about last night's exchanges in Kabul.

Heavy Fighting 7 Mar

BK0703131093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1238 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Kabul, March 7 (AFP)—Afghan defence ministry forces and rebel mojahedin exchanged heavy artillery fire here early Sunday [7 March] leaving 18 civilians and combatants injured, frontline soldiers said.

The hardline Hezb-e Eslami rebel faction fired hundreds of missiles against government positions, a defence ministry frontline commander alleged.

"Hezb fired several types of rockets against us but did not try an infantry assault," said commander Khan Agha.

Refuting this allegation, Hezb guerrillas stationed just 200 metres (yards) down the road from the government forces said fighting was initiated by the defence ministry to gather the bodies of their dead, and to avenge the death of a senior government commander.

"I was asleep when the government forces started their attack. When I informed my headquarters they ordered me to take a defensive position only," said Hezb frontline commander, Mohammad Ashraf Khedmatyar in the Chelsitoon district of south Kabul.

"They started their infantry offensive late Saturday afternoon, and we suffered three wounded. Three civilians using the main road were also wounded in the government's attack," he said.

The fighting came ahead of a peace agreement reached in Islamabad Sunday between Hezb leader Golboddin Hekmatyar amd Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani after a marathon round of talks sponsored by Pakistan.

Later Sunday defence ministry forces clashed with Hezb allies the Shi'ite Hezb-e Wahdat faction.

A Russian-made T-62 battle-tank was seen firing across the Kabul River against Wahdat positions in and around the former Russian Cultural Centre, now a shell-pocked ruin.

Frightened civilians raced for cover as Wahdat returned machinegun fire from the smoking mess that was their base.

Mas'ud, Dostom Troops Clash

LD0803123193 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Heavy clashes have taken place between forces of Dostom and the Supervisory Council in Mazar-e Sharif city, where four people were killed and a large number of others were injured. A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports from the city of Mazar-e Sharif that the Supervisory Council's armed troops were stopped by shrine officials when they attempted to enter the Ali shrine.

The report says that these people resorted to sedition—as they had in the past—when they were prevented from entering the shrine. A heavy exchange of fire between the two sides took place. Three members of the Supervisory Council and one associate of Dostom were killed as a result, and a large number of innocent people who had come to the city for work were injured. The situation in the city is now tense.

Mas'ud Said Preparing Attack

LD0803113593 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the so-called minister of defense in Kabul, is making preparations to launch a big offensive on mojahedin positions around the city of Kabul. A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent in Kabul, quoting a reliable source at the Ministry of Defense, reports to us that after the peace accord was signed by eight jehadi leaders in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, Mas'ud called an emergency session that was attended by a large number of communist generals and by Mahmud Baryalai, brother of Babrak Karmal [former leader of the Communist Party of Afghanistan]. They talked about disrupting the peace process. He is also mobilizing his supporters and is fortifying his positions.

The Radio Message of Freedom correspondent adds in his report that the seditious Mas'ud is adding fuel to the flames of the fighting—irresponsibly and in a self-seeking way—in his own interest, after jehadi leaders put their signature on the accord. The report adds: The people of Kabul look down on this irresponsible act by Mas'ud, and they have understood that the prime cause of fighting and destruction is this so-called Minister of Defense Mas'ud, who does not want peace to be ensured in the country.

India

Chavan Sees Cross-Border Destabilization Attempts

BK0703034093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S. B. Chavan, has said the time has come to unitedly fight the forces of communalism and casteism that are rearing their head at the instance of some neighboring countries. Addressing a function at the Assam Rifles Training Center at Dimapur in Nagaland, he said a systematic attempt is being made from across the border to destabilize India and retard its development. Mr. Chavan emphasized the crucial role of the security forces in view of the continuing threats to the country's unity and integrity, and exhorted them to maintain highest standard of discipline while discharging their duties. He lauded the role of Assam Rifles in protecting the northeastern frontier under most trying circumstances. Mr. Chavan announced a grant of 30 lakh rupees to the Assam Rifles for their welfare programs. He presented gallantry

awards to the Assam Rifles personnel and to the next of kin of those who sacrificed their lives.

Concern Expressed Over Chinese Plans in Indian Ocean

BK0703141193 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 26 Feb 93 p 4

[By Ranjit Kumar]

[Text] A report presented by a Chinese military leader, General (Zhou Nanzhi), on the strategic situation in the Indian Ocean is a matter of great concern for India. India's naval presence in the region should be considered a natural phenomenon due to its special economic zone covering two million square miles in the Indian Ocean. The Chinese military leader, however, has ignored this fact by unnecessarily raising the bogey of Indian naval power. Gen. (Zhou) says the Indian Navy is unnecessarily trying to compete with the navies of the world's superpowers. According to Gen. (Zhou), India is trying to establish its hegemony in the Indian Ocean and adjoining sea areas, which "China will never accept."

Though this secret report was prepared by Gen. (Zhou) last July, it has only come to light recently. If China implements Gen. (Zhou's) report seriously, the Indian Ocean will become an arena for big power naval rivalries.

A favorable result for India of the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War was that the strategic pressure on the Indian Ocean was greatly reduced. Absence of the Soviet Union led the United States also to not take the region as seriously as it had in the past. But it appears that China has started implementing a long-term strategy to fill the vacuum thus created in the Indian Ocean. In fact, Gen. (Zhou's) report also confirms Chinese plans to develop naval facilities on Burmese islands. The most significant of these plans is to establish a radar facility at Burma's Hainggyi Island, which is situated in the Bay of Bengal. This radar facility will enable China to keep a close watch on the Indian Navy's activities—similar to watching someone's house from his main gate. The matter is not confined to Haingyyi Island only; secret reports have also been received about China developing naval facilities at Burma's Coco Island, which is only about 50 km from India's Andaman and Nicobar group of islands. It is India that should be protesting against the movement of Chinese submarines and naval warships in the pretext of military cooperation with Burma, but it is ironic that instead Gen. (Zhou) in his report said the Indian Navy's activities in the Indian Ocean are an attempt to establish hegemony which China will never accept. China's maritime zone is very far from the Indian Ocean, whereas the Indian Ocean should be considered a geographical region adjacent to India. Why should the Chinese general then ask India to be bashful in its own area? Gen. (Zhou's) report means that China intends to hooliganize India's natural geographic zone.

Gen. (Zhou) is the director of the Chinese Military Science Academy, and the Chinese military leadership attaches great importance to his thinking. He says that because India is enhancing its naval presence in the Indian Ocean, China will have to increase its naval capability. He adds that China should expand its naval activities beyond the South and East China Sea to check Indian naval designs. Against the background of talks on confidence-building measures to reduce tension on the Sino-Indian border, Gen. (Zhou's) motive appears to be like wearing prayer beads around one's neck while the devil dwells in one's heart. While talking about peaceful coexistence, if China starts exerting its influence on other countries' maritime boundaries, it is only natural that strategic tension will mount in those areas. As a result of this, the Indian Navy will also have to plan for a significant increase in its capability because China will then become a direct rival of India in the Indian Ocean.

The United States was the subject of concern for India during the cold war rivalry between the erstwhile Soviet Union and the United States in the Indian Ocean. But the joint India-U.S. naval exercise in the Indian Ocean after the end of the cold war era hints that the navies of India and the United States are moving toward ties of mutual cooperation. One positive outcome of the joint naval exercise has been that the United States is no more a cause of concern or threat to India in the Indian Ocean. By conducting joint naval exercises with Southeast Asian countries along the same lines as those with the United States, India has successfully removed misunderstanding among these countries about the Indian Navy's intentions. But Gen. (Zhou's) report will have a greatly adverse effect on the Indian efforts to make the Indian Ocean a tension-free zone, as the increasing Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean will be a matter of concern for India as well as Southeast Asian countries because tension between China and ASEAN countries is mounting over the issue of sovereignty over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. A Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean will give the Southeast Asian states the feeling that they are being surrounded.

One effect of China's increasing machinations in the Indian Ocean will be that the United States will also give up its intention of reducing its presence in the region. This will lead to the evolution of a new strategic equation which will most adversely affect India in the sense that it will have to spend much more on its navy. Ninety-seven percent of India's trade is through the Indian Ocean where it has exclusive economic rights on a 2-million-square-mile-area and where the economically and strategically important islands of Andaman and Nicobar are located only 1,500 km away from its mainland. It is essential for India to keep the Indian Ocean tension free to exploit appropriately all these resources. The implementation of Gen. (Zhou's) report will lead to the Indian Ocean again becoming an arena of naval rivalry, which is a matter of great concern to India.

Iran

Response to U.S. Terrorist Allegations, NY Blast

Commentary Assails Allegations

LD0603112193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] In a statement, the U.S. State Department has claimed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been involved in bombings and assassinations that have taken place in Europe in recent years. The State Department statement, which was issued following extensive propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out over a period of weeks by Western-controlled mass media, in particular Israel radio, adds: Iran is the most dangerous state sponsor of terrorism. The points referred to in the State Department statement include: the Islamic Republic's strong objection to compromise with Israel, its assistance for revolutionary Palestinian Muslims, and its emphasis on the implementation of the death sentence against Salman Rushdie.

In its statement, the U.S. State Department has tried somehow to link the Islamic Republic with a number of bombings and assassinations in Europe.

According to the Central News Unit, in view of the extensive propaganda of recent weeks by the Zionist-controlled radio, political analysts had predicted the issue of an official statement. In the opinion of these analysts, the main motive of the United States and Israel in spreading this propaganda is to play down reports on the tragedy in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the massacre and deportation of revolutionary Muslims in Palestine. Political analysts believe that there is no doubt that the United States and Israel are themselves behind the bombings and acts of collective terrorism in the world.

Commentary Denies Accusations

LD0603122093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In a news item carried by the American news agency UPI, quoting the U.S. State Department, Iran has once again been accused of involvement in carrying out terrrorist activities.

The U.S. State Department has said that Iran is involved in bombing and assassinations in various parts of the world. Repetition of the story on Iran's support for terrorist activities comes at a time when Iran has on repeated occasions clearly and explicitly declared its position on terrorist activities.

In a message which President Hashemi-Rafsanjani recently sent to the heads of the EC, it was said: The Islamic Republic of Iran opposes terrorism in any form, in any place, and for any reason; it is ready to cooperate in serious confrontation of terrorism.

Iran is being accused of terrorism under conditions in which, during recent days, important American cities have been engulfed in waves of bombings and explosions. In that connection several individuals have been arrested who are not of Iranian nationality. Meanwhile, no full information has been released on their activities, sources of financing, or logistic methods.

Many believe that this act by the U.S. State Department is an effort to cover up for the deep-rooted weakness of that country's internal security establishment, thus diverting public attention away and toward foreign borders. Or perhaps America is determined to use such ploys to place Iran once again on the list of states sponsiring terrorism—the list which is annually released at the end of Farvardin [month ending 20 April]. in fact, the list comprises the names of countries opposed to America's hegemonist policies.

Incapable of principled confrontation, the American Government has resorted to the most commonplace propaganda. Faced with total defeat in their air drop operations to the wartorn areas of Bosnia, which forced them to stop those operations, the designers of American foreign policy, in a diversionary move, have now diverted public opinion toward Iran. Iran is itself the greatest victim of terrorism, while America is a country in which known terrorist groups are active—groups that have themselves admitted to their criminal activities.

Accusing Iran of terrorism is a continuation of the policy of hostility toward the Islamic revolution and the Muslim nation of Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in a spirit of full self-restraint, while declaring its dislike of terrorism, denies the statement of the U.S. State Department.

Attacks on 'Islamism' Assailed

LD0603125793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1104 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In an interview with THE WASHINGTON POST yesterday, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said that the explosion at the Manhattan World Trade Center in New York City showed that terrorism, linked to religious fundamentalism, is expanding in the world. He then called on various countries to cooperate in confronting that wave. [passage omitted]

Some truth is hidden behind such statements which, if revealed, will expose the nature of these political moves. The simultaneous expression of hostility toward Iran and Islamic movements by the Zionist regime and certain Arab regimes—branding the wave of Islamism in the region as dangerous—reveals the existence of an orchestrated plot, the main objective of which is to harm

the face of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic movements. They intend to make Islamism synonymous with terrorist activities all over the world. In this propaganda conspiracy, the Zionist regime is trying to attribute its own terroristic nature to others, thus legitimizing its own inhuman activities. [passage omitted]

In fact, reality is being distorted. It is Zionist extremism which during the past half century has afflicted the whole of the Middle East region with crises. Zionist extremism, relying on a false historical basis, has gathered world Jews in Palestine and has usurped the Islamic land of Palestine as well as parts of Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, continuing its aggression against several regional countries. [passage omitted]

Other Arab regimes in North Africa, following their own illegitimate goals, are in league with the Zionist regime in this propaganda plot against Islamism. These Arab regimes have come to power by trampling upon the people's votes. They prolong their lives by keeping Islamists away from political activity and through prepetrating violent and oppressive acts. They resort to spreading propaganda about the danger of Islamism in an effort to justify their oppression of Islamists. As such they try to legitimize their act of depriving the people of their natural rights of political participation and having the government of their own choice. Thus, they try to obtain the West's support for their oppressive acts and their shaky hold on power.

Islamic Groups Say Muslims 'Scapegoat'

LD0603123893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Efforts by Zionist-dominated mass media—a major part of U.S. press and radio and television networks—to attribute the New York explosion to Muslims have met strong reactions from Islamic groups. In a statement, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the Egyptian combatant cleric, denied any involvement by Islamic groups in the explosion at New York's World Trade Center. The statement explains: Accusing Muslims of involvement in this explosion is preplanned and baseless.

The leader of the Muslim Palestinians driven out of their homeland warned against attributing the New York explosion to Muslims. He stated: This incident has nothing to do with Palestinians whatsoever.

Officials of the Salaam mosque in New Jersey, in the United States, also categorically denied reports in U.S. media as lies. Speaking during a press interview, the spokesman for this mosque remarked: One could say that the American media and the FBI have found their scapegoat. Under public pressure and in explaining the reasons for the explosion, they have decided that the best way would be to accuse Muslims.

There are many questions and ambiguities with regard to the incidents before and after the explosion in the minds of the American public. One of these is the disappearance of the videotape of New York's World Trade Center parking garage. It is said that the official responsible for videotaping the center has claimed that he left the tape on his desk. However, the tape has disappeared.

Unsubstantiated remarks and the reasons given by FBI officials have also created doubt about their truth and authenticity in the minds of the American public.

Tehran Correspondent Reports on Blast

LD0603131093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Dear listeners, as you heard earlier, the United States and that country's mass media, which are chiefly in the hands of the Zionists, have launched extensive efforts to link the New York explosion to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic groups in the Middle East. This propaganda has been in operation for a few days, without any substantiated evidence or documents. To give you more details on the issue and Washington's objective in initiating this large-scale propaganda effort, we invite you to listen to our correspondent's report from the United States:

[Unidentified correspondent] While the Zionist-controlled press and media in the United States continued their extensive efforts to link the New York bomb blast to the Islamic Republic of Iran in one way or another, today's statement by the U.S. State Department took that propaganda issue a step further. Simultaneous with the bomb explosion in the New York World Trade Center, the Zionist-controlled mass media in the United States adopted a calculated propaganda line which seems to have been organized beforehand. This propaganda line itself renders the issue of the explosion at the Trade Center suspicious.

In today's issue, THE NEW YORK TIMES reports that the number of individuals arrested in connection with last week's explosion in New York has reached six, and that FBI agents continue to look into other causes of the blast. James Fox, the director of New York's FBI, told journalists today that four other individuals have been arrested near the Islamic mosque in New York's Brooklyn district. The New York FBI director said: The accomplices of Muhammad Salamah, one of the main agents of the New York blast, disappeared shortly after the blast, and the FBI is currently trying to identify and arrest the group.

The assistant U.S. attorney general has described the World Trade Center explosion, which killed five people and injured more than 1,000, as the biggest terrorist attack in America's history. The second person arrested in that connection is called Ibrahim al-Jabaruni, who is a relative of a person tried for killing an extremist Israeli rabbi in New York. In today's issue, THE NEW YORK

TIMES, citing U.S. judicial sources, remarks that the arrest of these two persons raises the possibility of further arrests in connection with the blast.

Police sources in New York have described Muhammad Salamah, the main suspect in the blast, as a Palestinian who was possibly born in the Israeli-occupied territories. Salamah, who is 26 years old, lives in the United States and holds an Egyptian passport.

U.S. President Bill Clinton today advised the Americans to refrain from making hasty judgments with regard to the World Trade Center culprits. In a news conference in Washington, Bill Clinton told the reporters: Once we have identified the main suspects and discovered the causes of the blast, we will be able to inform the Americans and announce the U.S. Government's stance. Clinton added that at present it is important to stress this point to the Americans so as to prevent them from making hasty judgements. This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Los Angeles.

'Fallacious U.S. Allegations' Condemned

NC0703065593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] In its response to the U.S. State Department's accusations regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has denounced all terrorist actions against innocent people and has condemned the fallacious U.S. allegations.

The Foreign Ministry statement said these accusations are being leveled against the Islamic Republic of Iran when the U.S. Government is giving undivided support to the Zionist regime, which is a symbol of government-sponsored terrorism and which is responsible for massacres, homelessness, and the repression of the oppressed Palestinian and Lebanese nations. In addition, the United States is providing refuge to terrorist groups that have extensive records of murder and arson in independent countries that refuse to accept U.S. domination. This practice has made the United States the center of worldwide terrorism.

The statement stresses that by supporting such repressive regimes and terrorist organizations, the U.S. Government cannot conceal its past actions and its present moves by making accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always been a victim of terrorist activity.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry considers such baseless accusations of the powers of world arrogance, especially of the United States, to be part of the subversive and interventionist actions of their intelligence services, including the CIA, to influence world public opinion. These actions stem from their ulterior motives, the continuation of the hostile policies of these countries, and the influence of the Zionist circles on them.

U.S. 'Propaganda' Condemned

LD0703214093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Iran's Foreign Ministry responding to the charge levelled by the U.S. State Department in introducing Iran as the world's most dangerous state sponsored of terrorism, this morning issued a statement. [passage omitted]

In the opinions of analysts on political affairs, the fresh wave of propaganda launched by the U.S. Government against Iran, in fact, is aimed at distorting the image of the Islamic Revolution at International level. Of course it is not for the first time that the U.S. Administration has resorted to such tactics in an attempt to divert the attention of the world's Muslim people. Apparently this time, the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York and its being linked with the Islamic fundamentalists, have constituted the theme of a new scenario which is going through its various stages of [word indistinct] under the Zionist direction. Truly speaking what is the reason that under current conditions, Eyptian President Husni Mubarak, Yitzhaq Shamir, former prime minister of the Zionist regime and U.S. officials are concentrating are concerning [as heard] simultaneous efforts, simultaneous efforts to somehow introduce Islamic fundamentalists as responsible for the recent bombing in New York. This is an important question whose answer can go to reveal the nefarious designs behind the recent propaganda waves by the U.S. mass-media.

Indisputably terrorism, as an evil method, has always been mooted among the world people. Hence, selection of this subject as the theme of a propaganda campaign against those states which on any grounds oppose the hegemonistic policies of America and the Zionist regime, can in itself, appear at the outset, as an interesting matter aimed at deceiving many of the named individuals. But such individuals have chosen this subject for employing the policy on the use of force that are themselves rated as the staunchest supporters of the state terrorism. Quite evidently when the CIA and Mosad—well known to everyone in the world—take the lead in combatting international terrorism, it is then that one should have doubts about the use of the terms terrorism and supporter of terrorism. With a glance at the U.S. record on backing suppressive regimes and terrorist organizations that have in most cases enforced their sinister objectives by giving asylum to the internationally-known terrorists, we discern that today the false propaganda wished by the White House in combatting terrorism is only designed at diverting the world pubic opinion from the covered realities concerning the performance of the world imperialism. In this same connection, the subject of human rights, too, provides an appropriate propaganda device for the U.S. mass-media, so that they, through reliance on it, at any time, may pressure those countries whose record is not liked by the White House. However, they are ignorant of the fact that in the new era of expansion of international communications, the employment of

such methods has become outdated. This is because with the passage of time propaganda tactics of the U.S. Administration have been successively exposed by the popular mass media and liberation-seeking countries.

At any rate, at this stage too, a new propoganda offensive has been undertaken by the mass-media of the U.S. and its allies against the Islamic Republic of Iran, but on account of the baselessness of such propaganda, indisputibly they, after sometime, will be forced to chose a new propaganda subject for themselves. In the midst, one should not ignore the reality that the impact of such propoganda has on independent thinking people of the world who also act independently to find the behind-the-scene facts, will certainly lead to further exposure of the true face of the liberation-oriented contention of the Western media.

Israel Accused of Involvement in Blast

LD0703151093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1056 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Informed sources say that Mosad and Israeli fingerprints can clearly be seen in the New York bomb explosion.

The characteristics of the explosion and the methods used are undoubtedly similar to those of other Mosad operations in Italy, Tunisia, Beirut, and France. In addition, there is the possible influence of that explosion on the economic network in New York and the role of the pro-Israeli Jewish organizations.

The New York explosion took place exactly on the anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion. It is natural that the accusing finger is immediately pointed toward the Iraqis or the Palestinians. Then it is the turn of the Croats and the Serbs and even the Russian Communists to be next in the line of suspects.

Finally, the accusing finger of America and its mass media, which have extensive contacts with Zionism, is pointed at Arabs and Muslims. In this criminal, political, and media magic show the name of a person is pulled out of the hat, and is immediately described as an Islamic fundamentalist. The scenario, howver, does not end here. The suspect had connections with a mosque in New Jersey, the Friday imam of which is none other than Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the Egyptian combative cleric. This cleric issued a fatwa that [Egyptian President] 'Anwar al-Sadat should be killed, and he was imprisoned for a while after the revolutionary execution of al-Sadat. He was finally declared innocent; he then travelled to Sudan and finally to America.

It is said that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has also issued a fatwa for the killing of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Mubarak wants America to send him back. Americans have also recently found a pretext and confiscated his green card. Now they are looking for another pretext to resort to in order to throw him out. It seems that the pretext has been prepared. Therefore the interesting point is this: An explosion takes place in New York and an Egyptian combatant cleric who opposes the Camp David Treaty becomes the victim.

It is also undoubtedly clear that the Israeli regime has become badly isolated for tyrannizing the people of Palestine. Visual and written news of that tyranny has been broadcast to the farthest corners of the world, so that the policies of the Zionist regime are being questioned in America. Take, for example, the issue of the expulsion of 415 Muslim Palestinians to southern Lebanon and how it caused world public opinion to erupt against Israel.

One also cannot ignore the remarks made recently by Senator Patrick Leahy and by the U.S. ambassador in Israel, who have expressed dissatisfaction at economic reforms in Israel and at the way in which the U.S. loans of $3 billion are spent. They have said that in future the amount of those loans will be reduced year by year.

Moreover during the U.S.-led peace process it has become clear that Israel is the main obstacle to achieving any kind of agreement aimed at solving the existing problems. Finally, reference should be made to the recent negotiations between the Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Movement] and the U.S. officials in Jordan, which were confronted with Israel's bitter silence.

All those elements made Israel and Mosad strike a news and propaganda blow to misrepresent the enemies of Israel as a bunch of terrorist thugs to the world and try to attract Western sympathy for Israel.

If a crazy person in America calls himself Jesus Christ and engages in clashes with the police, they do not say that he is a Christian; if Serbs are massacring Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, they do not say that they are Christians; if, however, an explosion takes place in America for which possibly a Jordanian could be accused, then they immediately say he is a fundamentalist Muslim; any fundamentalist is connected to Iran, and therefore Iran is linked to the New York explosion. Another outcome of such reasoning by the propaganda monopoly is that once again the U.S. State Department, exactly at the time of that explosion, accused Iran of being involved in terrorist actions in Europe.

Muhammad Salamah, the main suspect, is a Jordanian who lives in America. He rents a van which he himself says has been stolen, he goes to the rental company to report that the van has been stolen, and there FBI agents are waiting for him. Another person is arrested who is the brother of Sayyid al-Nusayr. Sayyid al-Nusayr was held for a while on charges of assassinating Kahane, an extremist Israeli rabbi, but was declared innocent and released.

We review the issue once again. An explosion in New York raises the name of an Egyptian combative cleric and a Jordanian follower of his. Then the brother of the person accused of the assassination of Rabbi Kahane is brought on the scene. Iran is once again accused of involvement in terrorism. Public opinion in America and the world is drawn towards Muslims for a while. Finally, once again, Islamic fundamentalism is displayed as the greatest danger to civilized societies.

Possibly the real perpetrators of the explosion will never be caught. A few other people will be sacrificed; but after the passage of time, when all tensions have died down, it will once again become clear that Israel was the real perpetrator of violence.

U.S. Campaign Called 'Malignant'

NC0703193093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Station political commentary]

[Text] In a special statement issued today, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry has answered the U.S. State Department's accusations against Iran, which was described as one of the most dangerous supporters of terrorism. The Foreign Ministry statement noted that the United States is raising such charges against the Islamic Republic at a time when the United States is actively defending the Zionist entity, which epitomizes government-sponsored terrorism. Therefore, the United States bears responsibility for the massacres, displacement, and terrorism against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

The new media onslaughts launched by the U.S. Government against Iran seek to tarnish the reputation and status of the Islamic revolution worldwide. This is not the first time the United States has followed such practices to divert the attention of the Islamic public. What is new this time is the attempt to link the Islamic fundamentalist trend to the bombing at New York's World Trade Center, as part of a new Zionist-sponsored scenario. We ask: What prompted Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and U.S. officials to level accusations against the Islamic fundamentalist trend at the same time and to blame it for the New York bombing? The answer to this question will help shed light on the hidden goals that the U.S. media are trying to achieve by launching such propaganda campaigns.

Washington, in fact, seeks to exploit the issue of terrorism through the media to blackmail those countries that refuse to submit to the aggressive U.S. and Zionist policies. Such a deceptive approach could fool some naive people for a while, but such policies cannot be swallowed by the world public, which, despite its wholehearted renunciation of all types of terrorism, knows very well that raising the issue of terrorism by parties which are themselves the biggest protectors of government-sponsored terrorism is simply an attempt to put pressure on others. When organizations such as the Central Intelligence Agency and the Zionist intelligence service, the Mosad, raise the banner of fighting world terrorism, then it could be said that the word terrorism has lost its true meaning and that the banner of fighting terrorism is raised by the true protectors of official and international terrorism in the world. Who does not know about the U.S. black file of backing terrorism and terrorists, chief among them the terroristic Zionist regime and the other well-known terrorist organizations? Who does not know that the United States has turned into a safe haven for all sorts of international terrorists? This file and such practices expose the new U.S. media campaigns and reveal the falsehood of the claims of fighting terrorism. Such claims only seek to deceive the world public and cover up the true malignant intentions of global arrogance.

Using the slogan of fighting terrorism as a means of pressuring others is exactly the same as the U.S.-imperialist extortion policy of raising the issue of defending human rights. For many years, Washington has been habitually using this spear whenever its interests warrant and against any country it believes is not acting according to its will. Naturally, it slipped the mind of the White House rulers that such practices are outdated in the age of sophisticated technology and advanced communications. The lifespan of the U.S. lies has become short, very short. The national media in the countries that come under such misleading U.S. media onslaughts are capable of disseminating the facts and exposing the true motives behind raising such accusations and media onslaughts before the world public. The fate of such new malignant campaigns launched by the United States and its allies against the Islamic Republic of Iran is utter failure, no doubt.

Dailies Comment on U.S. Allegations

LD0803092993 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA—Two dailies Monday [8 March] denounced recent allegations by the U.S. State Department introducing Iran as the main supporter of extremist Islamic and Palestinian groups.

"TEHRAN TIMES" wrote that if support for Palestine and the oppressed Palestinians was terrorism, Iran was proud of it and "SALAM" called for a serious revision in Iran's policies adopted towards international circles and on issues pertaining to human rights and terrorism.

TEHRAN TIMES further noted that in fact the statement came from a government which owed a large part of its current power to continued violations of human rights and which supported the dictatorial regimes and the governments that staged coup d'etats.

The editorial noted that Iran's support for Palestinians had been among offenses enumerated in the U.S. State Department statement, arguing who was actually guilty of this charge?

"Iran—which defends the rights of an oppressed person whose land has been occupied...—or the U.S.—which has mustered its political and military power to support and back a savage and aggressor regime...?" It asked.

It concluded by saying that if support for the Zionists ruling over Tel Aviv and for the aggressor Israeli regime was love for freedom, then this love for freedom would be bestowed upon the White House.

Commenting on the same subject "SALAM" cautioned the officials against showing any leniency and flexibility which would be misinterpreted by the enemy and would further embolden it to pursue its illegitimate objectives.

The commentary noted that granting permission to the U.N. Human Rights Commission envoy (to visit Iran) and other political moves and stands should not be adopted in a manner to be misinterpreted by the enemy as a sign of flexibility on the part of Iran. "Otherwise", it stressed, "enemies would take another step forward."

The daily concluded by saying that no doubt this fresh U.S. propaganda aggression should be confronted by further underlining the Islamic-revolutionary stands.

Jannati Friday Sermon on Bosnia, Rushdie, Britain

LD0503151893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1152 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati at Tehran University on 5 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Another issue is the problem of Bosnia-Hercegovina. A tragedy that does not allow a person to relax and one does not know what to do about it. One experiences parts of one's body being torn apart and cannot do anything about it. One can see the whole of one's existence being burned but one has no water to pour over it. What would that person feel in such circumstances? [passage omitted]

Curse those who are able to do something about this and refrain from doing so. Not only do they do nothing about it; they are also constantly working against these [Bosnian Muslim] people.

They have prepared a plan in Geneva which involved one of those genuine British satanic works. In that plan they hatched the worst of plots against Muslims, then God showed mercy and Muslims were awake and did not accept it. They divided that country into ten regions and placed Muslims in regions where they would be deprived of everything. [passage omitted]

Now they have gone to New York to discuss the situation. Well, we know what is going on. They have sat around to waste time until the Serbs have achieved all their objectives. Then they will come and write something that belittles the Muslims and impose it on the them. Shame on those Muslims who can do something for them, shame on those Islamic governments who can do something for them. We can do a lot of things, we are 45 or 46 Islamic countries but we don't. This stain will always remain on these countries. We have done all we could. [passage omitted; crowd chants support]

The British today are on their death bed. Other Western countries too are in a similar state, it may happen sooner or later. They are now sitting and interfering with the business of the Muslims, they are plotting, they are interfering, they are creating scenes. They are doing something while they are on their death bed. Should we not do anything while we are powerful? They come and raise the Salman Rushdie issue. The British are the main plotters of this affair. They sit and talk for 45 minutes in their Foreign Office with this disgusting being. They take him here, they take him there, different countries invite him; he suddenly turns up at a lecture in a university. They want to mention him every day. Why? What has happened? What has he done? These are political games. Human rights is not the issue, the life of this worthless person is not the issue; no nothing like this. Humanity is not the issue, it is a political game. I think they are following two objectives: One is violating this sanctity [insulting the Prophet] which the imam [Khomeyni] was not going to allow. And he gave that decisive and manly edict.

Their first aim is that the path becomes open and anyone says what they like about Islam, the Muslims and the sanctities of Islam. The second aim is to make Iran surrender, to pressure Iran so it surrenders. Do they think Iran will surrender? Do they think the issue will be solved if Iran surrenders? First, Iran cannot possibly surrender. Three cheers for our great imam who punched them hard in their mouth and stopped them in their tracks for ever. There is no way this sanctity can be broken, this is divine will. The arrow has been released, it will reach the black heart of this man sooner or later. The imam had the final say. [crowd chants in support] Please allow me to speak my mind in the ten minutes that is left.

In short his firmness forced them to retreat. The lost the hope of executing the plots, but the trickery continues. Our dear people know this, but should know even more that Britain was the founder in plundering and robbing the east, the founder of political domination of these poor and helpless nations. They robbed and plundered the wealth of the people; they took the wealth from here to create [western] civilization. Western civilization is the result of the plundering here. Thousands of lights were turned off in the houses of the poor before those floodlights were lit in their castles. Thousands of people died in hunger before these mouths were filled with food. Thousands of people lacked the basic necessities and lived in poverty before they could live in this comfort. This is a reality and we all know it.

But the era is now ending. Today Britain is no longer what it was. Although the infection and smell of imperialism continues in its mind. Although it continues to dream of becoming a superpower. Although despite a lack of power it continues to do many things through trickery. But the era has come to an end and the sun has begun to set. Its economic situation is very bad. Its moral and political situations are very bad. Let me give you examples of their poor economic situation. At the beginning of the last Christian year the exchange rate was 1.9 dollars to a pound; today it is 1.5 or 1.44. It has fallen. Unemployment is growing daily. There were 2.6 million unemployed, now there are 3 million. Almost 10 percent of its work force is unemployed. What I say is based on exact research which shows that more than 10 per cent of the people have failed to pay their personal tax [Community Charge]. The closing down of coal mines created a crisis once it was proposed. And the crisis continues.

To bring down the pressure, they have decided to privatize schools, take fees from students, privatize their universities and privatize many companies. The plan for privatizing the coal mines is still under study. They are even thinking of privatizing the hospitals. It is said that last year over 31,000 companies went bankrupt. Their international credit has fallen. The trust that some people had before is now lost. They have a poor standing in Europe. They are falling politically.

Their moral situation is beyond words. With the way that their lust was shamefully legalized before anywhere else, today not even a small boy is secure in this country, in London. This case was actually reported. Three people come on a train, take a man with them—in front of everyone—rape him and kill him. These are all facts. Sometimes right in the middle of the day they stop a car, pull out a woman, rape her and kill her. Moral corruption has reached such heights, overt and and semi-covert. Witnesses have reported that women are scared to go out alone after 1900. These [witnesses] had come to Iran and were surprised that that here women sometimes travel on their own at 2300. One of our representatives told us that they [British] even told him to hold fast to his children when he went out. Don't let the child out of sight. If the child is left alone they would suddenly take him. This is the situation. Morality has fallen. Politics has fallen—but I don't have the time to discuss it now. The economy has fallen. This is the situation.

They are sitting and plotting in this situation. They are interfering wherever they like. We must be awake, the plundered people must be awake. And they keep saying: Islam is a danger. Well yes, Islam is a danger, the Muslims have arisen. A person who is awake is always a danger to a thief, there is no doubting this. There is no danger when he is asleep, once awake, he is dangerous.

At this point I have to advise our own dear ones: Be alert, don't wade into the water with no guard, don't waste money. We had over $1 billion worth of trade with them [Britain] during the last Christian year; Why? They are now breaking up. Their situation is so bad that when they expelled three students from there, a number of people expressed their opposition, saying: Why did you do this? They bring dollars for us. Each student has to pay around $15,000 in fees over there. Others said: You expelled three students, we are not receiving their dollars any more. This is how bad their situation is. And you pour over $1 billion in a year into their pockets. Why is there not a center to supervise these issues? When they themselves want to deal with abroad, there is a center called the industrial and trade center. They must give permission to a company to sell any sort of product. There is a center to take such decisions. And they use it politically. Why should we not have such a center? [passage omitted]

Why should we buy so many goods from the same Britain that degrades us so much? These goods can be bought from many other places with the same quality, and sometimes cheaper. Why should we not impose heavy customs tariffs on British goods? We can see they are committing crimes against us. They are being mischievous. The day that the esteemed Mr. Hashemi [Rafsanjani], may God protect him and increase his successes and powers, wrote a letter in response to the EC heads of state, they sat and condemned Iran. What a well documented letter, a letter that brings honor. He wrote a strong letter to them. He had said some very good things in that letter. You heard about this. I will just quote one sentence from the letter: You protect the terrorists [reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] who devastated the Islamic Republican Party and killed those dear ones in your countries. They blew up the prime minister. They committed so many crimes. They placed bombs at Friday prayers. You bring them, you support them, you put resources at their disposal and they even use your propaganda machinery. What would you do if we did the same? Could you tolerate it? For example, if it became clear that the group which blew up this palace [World Trade Center] in New York, and for example, if they came and sought refuge in Iran—what would you do if we gave them refuge? You would bring the skies down! You pressured Libya so much because one person that you say was involved in that air incident [over Lockerbie is Libyan]. You said: Give us that person. You have given refuge to so many criminals, you take care of them. You have put them in reserve to use them in the future. All this is nothing? Are we supporting terrorism? Are we terrorists? Well it was a very good letter.

Our charge d'affaires had made an appointment in Britain at 1500 on a certain day to hand over this letter to the Foreign Office. Suddenly, before noon or at noon, some of their media said: The Foreign Office summoned the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic. He had made an appointment three days before, he was going to hand over the letter. They suddenly said this so the letter disappears and is not mentioned. The issue becomes a summons. When later he tells them: Did we not have an appointment? They said: Well something was written, it is not that important, a certain newspaper wrote something. This is how they are being mischievous.

As to suggestions I can offer—though time is running out. Firstly, the honorable Majles—I really have pinned hopes on the Majles which handles issues with sensitivity and follows them up with care—should review the problems to which I referred. The Majles may review our economic and commercial relations with Britain. Any payment and issue that has an impact on our bad dollar situation must be surveyed with a view to what to do. The most optimistic view says that we are the second country bringing profits to Britain. That is what optimists say. The pessimists say that we are the first.

This must be reviewed by the Majles. Then high customs tariffs must be imposed on their goods. Many of the agreements must be cancelled. What is binding us? They themselves cancel any agreement that they deem not to be to their interests. We must also cancel when we see it is to our detriment. A lot of such things can be done. Somehow we must not forget such things. It is true that we are novices while they are old hands. But in any case we can benefit from their experiences. Our war is not all military. We have economic, political, propaganda, and cultural warfare and cultural invasion. In all these fields they are the old timers. We can easily rob their snouts in the dust. But we must be alert and careful in what we do. [passage omitted]

Velayati Urges UN To Stop Serb Aggression

LD0603075593 Tehran IRNA in English 0648 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] New York, March 6, IRNA—Iran has called on the Security Council to take effective measures prescribed in Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter to stop continued Serbian aggression against Bosnian eastern territories.

The Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a letter to the U.N. Security Council Friday [5 March], expressed Iran's deep concern over the Serb atrocities in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

"Since all parties involved in Bosnian and Hercegovina have signed the military agreement, the council should immediately call for the cessation of hostilities," the letter read.

The letter emphasized on the immediate establishment of the war crimes tribunal for the Serb criminals and aggressors in accordance with the international law.

It said "unless and until the Security Council succeed to stop the onslaught and genocide of the defenseless population of Bosnia and Hercegovina by the armed and well eqiupped Serbs, the preclusion of the government and people of Bosnia and Hercegovina to exercise their inherent right to self-defense is not only unjust but morally and legally unjustified."

"if the Security Council is not prepared to shoulder its responsibilities by stopping the aggression and restoring Bosnia and Hercegovina's sovereignity, territorial integrity and national unity, it should at least enable the Bosnians to do so themselves through lifting of arms embargo on Bosnia and Hercegovina," the letter concluded.

'Weak' ICO Deplored; Airdrops to Bosnia Suggested

LD0603145993 Tehran IRNA in English 1349 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Saturday [6 March] deplored weak performance of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] in failing to prevent crimes perpetrated by the Serbs against the Bosnian Muslims.

The daily's editorial wrote that the OIC to a large extent could have prevented Serbian crimes by timely consultations with European states like Germany, Austria, and Hungary who have a fair stance over the issue.

On airdrops of food by the American Administration, the daily said "It is not clear whether the supplies are being received by the Muslims or are falling into the hands of the Serbs."

"Such a project could easily have been carried out by the OIC countries. The project of providing food and medical supplies through airdrops to the beleaguered people of Bosnia could be undertaken by Iran and Pakistan as representatives countries from the Islamic world, and the whole project could of course be supervised by the U.N. Iran has already had successful experience in this field by providing aids through airdrops in Afghanistan," it continued.

The editorial concluded "There is no time to be lost. The women and children in Bosnia are looking forward to people who really mean to provide help, and are not just hunting for propaganda opportunities."

New York Talks Said To Pressure Bosnian Muslims

LD0803132193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1057 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] After six days of negotiations, the New York peace talks were temporarily postponed until the end of the current week without achieving any acceptable results. The evidence shows, however, that Izetbegovic—leader of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hecegovina—will probably sign the peace agreement in the next few days. [passage omitted]

Many international observers believe that a connection cannot be ruled out between the spectacle created by the West—and particularly America—wearing a humanitarian mask and speaking of humanitarian relief aid and

urgent action, and recent Serbian activities in eastern parts of Bosnia, simultaneous with the New York peace talks.

Perhaps all these games are stage managed in order to put pressure on Muslims to accept the Western-imposed peace plan. The effects of these issues can be seen in the change of position by the Muslims. Until a few days ago, Izetbegovic strongly rejected the current peace plan, terming it a reward to the Serbs for their crimes during the past year. [passage omitted]

It seems that, by playing a new role in this area, America only intends to take the initiative away from Europe and display itself as the sole master of events in Europe. On the whole, however, such empty and baseless claims create nothing but an unsatisfactory climate for the Muslims.

Even during one of these Western spectacles, Karadzic—leader of the Serbs—was threatened and told that he would be isolated and face serious action if he objected to the plan. It should be said, however, that it is with the help of this same kind of Western remark that the Serbs have so far managed to somehow continue their actions either in the political or the military area.

Finally, it should be said that heavy pressure has been put on Muslims during the six days of negotiations in New York, and Muslims are probably going to agree with the whole plan within the next few days. In fact, the efforts of the West to force the plan on Muslims are aimed at transferring a democratic system of government to a sectarian one, which might even result in a speedy conclusion to the war. The fire of another war will be ignited between three different sects. The only difference between the next war and the current one is that the former would take place under the banner of peace.

UNESCO Director Cited on Rushdie Affair

LD0603113493 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Paris, March 6, IRNA—Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Federico Mayor has said his recent statements on Salman Rushdie had been misinterpreted and that he had never declared author of 'The Satanic Verses' as innocent.

A source at the UNESCO Secretariat quoted Mayor as making the remarks in a recent meeting here with the Iranian envoy to the organization.

Mayor noted that he considered as "justified" the sentencing of the apostate author, who had insulted the world Muslims by his insane move, according to Islamic rules.

The source further quoted Mayor as saying that although it was true that freedom of expression was sought for promotion and elevation of mankind and human society, it would not allow an author to insult culture of other people.

Mayor reiterated his respect for Islam as a great religion and creator of the world civilization and said he attached importance to Iran as a major UNESCO member with an enriched culture.

Contacted by IRNA, Iran's representative office at UNESCO confirmed that the meeting had taken place.

During the meeting, the Iranian envoy informed Mayor of Tehran's protest against his stand towards Rushdie issue.

CIA Director's Remarks Called 'Baseless'

NC0603142993 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Feb 93 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Washington's Repetitive Remarks"]

[Excerpts] "I think that Iran will be able to independently manufacture nuclear arms within the next decade," said CIA Director James Woolsey. He made this statement to Congress, adding that "even if Iran's nuclear purchases today are legal, Iran can alter the nuclear technology needed for non-military purposes to technology for military use, as well as exporting this technology."

This is not the first time a Washington official has warned against the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear threat. Such remarks have become so repetitive they are disgusting. Each time Iran refutes these baseless accusations. Once again, the Iranian delegation at the United Nations has issued a statement officially declaring that the remarks by the new CIA chief are untrue. The new CIA chief must know how baseless and illogical his remarks are, but he will continue to repeat such remarks in a bid to ensure Washington's new political-propaganda objectives.

The truth is that Iran is faithful to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and continues to oppose the production of weapons of mass destruction. By extending an invitation to observers and to representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency [to visit Iran], Iran has also proven it is faithful to the treaty. With its propaganda efforts, Washington wants to put Iran in an "inert position" by forcing Tehran to constantly prepare and issue statements, denials, explanations, and clarifications.

Thus, it is worth giving this more thought. Even though Iran is faithful to its commitments, and has no intention of acquiring and manufacturing nuclear and chemical arms, one cannot simply accept that some countries in the region and the world grant themselves the right to manufacture, acquire, and store weapons of mass destruction while banning others countries from doing the same.

From Iran's standpoint, the world should take a coordinated and unbiased step toward the complete annihilation of all weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical, and biological—and thus grant all mankind some peace of mind. This step should be completely impartial and should apply evenly to all countries.

But the satanic powers question independent countries on their conventional arms too. How can the Zionists be armed with various types of weapons, in the center of the Islamic world's oil-rich areas, and turn occupied Palestine into "an arsenal of destructive arms," while the efforts of the Islamic world, specifically the efforts of independent countries, to preserve their territorial integrity and security are portrayed as "elements of insecurity and instability in the region and in the world?" The issue is clear. Arrogance is only thinking of how the world of Islam can be weakened and how independent countries can be rendered impotent. Its every effort is aimed at questioning countries striving to safeguard their strength, independence, and territorial integrity.

It is well known that the other countries in the region have made large investments on their defense capabilities, even resorting to illogical investments in order to acquire these capabilities. But it is only Iran, with its limited investments aimed at rebuilding its defensive capabilities after eight years of an imposed war, that is being questioned. [passage omitted]

We have a strong and clear stance on this issue. While the Islamic Republic of Iran does not have any need for weapons of mass destruction, it also opposes the manufacture, storage, and use of such deadly arms on general grounds. Not only will it not attempt to build these weapons, but it will do its best to use its political-propaganda capabilities to reveal to the world the "policy of double standards" and the "biased stance" of the United States and international forums. [passage omitted]

Ambassador to UN Lambasts West on Human Rights

LD0503182893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] In the wake of biased remarks made by a number of Western representatives, especially the envoy of the U.S. President and the head of America's representative delegation in the current session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, about false accusations regarding human rights violations in Iran, Sirus Naseri, the Iranian ambassador and our country's permanent representative at the UN's European headquarters, has delivered a strongly-worded speech responding to those claims.

In his speech, our country's representative listed the following as some of the West's activities which have violated the most basic human rights: the unstinting support given by U.S. Democratic and Republican administrations for the previous Iranian regime; giving that regime a completely free hand to suppress its political opponents; the supply of Iraq with extensive chemical and destructive weapons by Britain, Spain, and Germany; and, finally, the supply of sophisticated aircraft and advanced equipment by France to Iraq at the height of bombardments against Iran's residential areas during the imposed war. He added; The issue of human rights in Iran is being raised at a time when the Tel Aviv regime and the CIA have openly declared that Iran is Israel's greatest enemy and the greatest threat to U.S. interests. He stressed: In terms of the international situation of human rights, at least 50 countries, including ten of the West's main allies, are continuing to violate human rights severely; but they are not subjected to any criticism even in the Western media.

Our country's ambassador to the UN's European headquarters referred to the fact that countries such as the United States, Canada, Britain, Germany, France and Denmark are, according to international statistics and indicators, among the top 15 countries most prone to criminal activities in the world, and spoke of the double standards and selective attitude shown by these countries towards human rights issues, adding: When rebellion, murders and killings engulf Los Angeles, the current U.S. President described them as an outcome of economic problems, and when Europe violates the most fundamental standards of human rights with the increasing wave of hatred against foreigners and fanatical racism, Western governments say that one of the reasons is the economic recession. Nevertheless, when the issue of the link between development in Third World countries and the level of human rights is raised, these same countries dismiss this as unacceptable.

Israeli Request for Hizballah Disarmament Viewed

LD0703155893 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—An Iranian daily Sunday [7 March] castigated the United Nations for allowing the Zionist regime to ask for the disarmament of the Hizballah in south Lebanon.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' was commenting in its editorial on the recent call of the Zionist regime's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to disarm the Hizballah reasoning that the party was a threat to establishment of peace in the region.

"Why should the international organisations allow an aggressor to boldly and impudently ask them to disarm the resistance groups which are combating the occupation of their lands?" asked the daily.

It further inquired "Which governments have actually given an aggressor so much elbow room in the U.N. to conduct such maneuvers?"

Turning to the occupation of South Lebanon by the Zionist regime, the daily said that it had in fact violated the international rights which call for respect for the borders and for the right of independence of the nations.

Referring to the anti-Zionist resistance in the occupied territories, it said "defending one's land and existence vis-a-vis an enemy inroad is not only praiseworthy but also fully legitimate and permissible."

The daily mentioned the U.N. Resolution 425 which calls for the withdrawal of the Zionist regime from the occupied lands in South Lebanon and asked "Now on what basis and with which right does Israel seek disarmament and suppression of a people who are defending their land and right of existence against the aggressors?"

U.S. Should Urge Israel To Accept 'Reality'

NC0603170793 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Feb 93 pp 1, 10

[Unattributed commentary: "Christopher in the Region"]

[Text] Warren Christopher, the new U.S. secretary of state, visited the Middle East to invigorate the Arab-Israeli peace talks and to visit countries neighboring the regime occupying Jerusalem.

As head of U.S. diplomacy for the Democratic administration, Christopher's mission was to brief regional countries on the views of the new leader in the White House.

The Middle East peace talks, to which the United States had attached many hopes in the vacuum created by the disintegration of the Soviet Union and which were progressing at an extremely slow pace, were suspended with the deportation of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Despite their disappointments, the Arab participants in the talks hoped to gain concessions from Israel. But they were dealt a political blow with this act [of deportation].

In the past, the Democrats have adopted the strategy of increasing support for Israel so that the other sides will be forced to grant concessions. Carter imposed the Camp David agreement on the Middle East at a time when the Arabs had succeeded in the Ramadan war and Egypt had distanced itself from the Syrians. However, the current conditions have changed from the times of the Camp David accords:

—Islamic tendencies in the region have grown and the Intifadah has become a political power in the occupied territories;
—Israel has suffered great economic losses from the war of attrition, the "war of stones," with Muslim youths;
—Lebanon's civil war has ended and its religious and national forces are participating in the power structure;
—The Syrians are dissatisfied with the lack of progress in the [Arab-Israeli] talks;
—The U.S. policy of double standards on Iraq, Bosnia, and Somalia has revealed Washington's hypocrisy and unreliability.

If we add to this list Israel's need for Middle East markets, Cairo's inability to harness the Muslim forces, and Europe's efforts to play a more active role in the world, we can say that the objective that Christopher pursued in this visit was to gather information for future policy making.

Clinton, who set off for the White House with many promises to the American Zionists, will face serious problems if Israel shows inflexibility in any peace plan. The U.S. statesmen are definitely aware of the new conditions in a region where Israel has destroyed the stability for half a century. They have also realized that there are others in this region who are not friends of the U.S. statesmen. Five years of the intifadah have proven that Israel is threatened from within and that this threat becomes more serious with the each suppressive measures that it takes.

If America intends to adopt policies like it did during the Carter era, it will only threaten the political life of friendly governments. The recent developments in Egypt are a clear example of this mistake. It also seems unlikely that any other country will become the forerunner for a second Camp David agreement.

Thus, instead of exerting pressures to gain concessions from the Arabs, Clinton and his men should try to force Israel to accept the current reality.

Iraqi Opposition Urged To Learn From 'Mistakes'

NC0603153193 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 23 Feb 93 p 12

[Hasan Fathi commentary: "Talabani's Bitter Confessions in Damascus"]

[Excerpts] In a speech in Damascus, Jallal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, confessed that the West has not given the Iraqi opposition any assistance, despite all the commotion. He said the West made many promises that it has not kept. He also said there are differences among Saddam's opponents and that this is why they have not been able to attain power.

Talabani's confessions prove that opponents of Iraq's Ba'thist regime have been unable to take any steps to overthrow Saddam Husayn and that even problems like the Iran-Iraq war and the West's attacks on Iraq have not helped their plans. With each passing day the burden on the Iraqi regime becomes lighter and its bases at home become stronger, while its opponents are continually losing their solidarity.

The reasons for the failure of the Iraqi opposition can be seen in their dependence on others, their trust in their

mentors, the absence of group uniformity, the fact that their operations abroad have resorted to politicking, and—finally—their trust in the United States.

The groups that are operating against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime have different affiliations and beliefs, they do not understand that it is not the time to divide booty that they haven't got, and that they will probably have to strive for years to get what they want. [passage omitted]

Talabani's confessions should be taken seriously by the leaders of the opposition groups and by the supporters of these groups, who should review their policies. If they want to gain power and to end the Ba'thist rule, they should review their stance on Western assistance and adopt a correct path.

They should learn from their mistakes, which have led to the weakening of their position during the past few months, and they should come to their senses because conditions are sensitive right now. If negligence costs them their positions, the real losers will be the [opposition] groups and the true winner will be the Ba'thist regime.

Afghan Groups' Islamabad Accord Welcomed

LD0703175693 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—Iran welcomed the agreement worked out by Afghan groups in the Pakistani capital earlier today and hoped that it would put an end to the phase of futile killings, destruction and instability in Afghanistan.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today that enemies of Afghanistan have been scheming to create an atmosphere of pessimism among the Mojahedin in order to embroil the country in continuous crisis and insecurity.

He said the bitter experiences of the past prove the futility of any agreement not reflecting the opinions of all classes. Therefore, he felt optimistic, having consideration for the just rights of all groups and classes would hopefully help restore peace in Afghanistan.

Iran, as part of its untiring efforts to end the bloody clashes in Afghanistan, sent a delegation to Islamabad and employed all its efforts to work out lasting understanding between various groups with the cooperation of Islamic countries, said the spokesman.

Afghan leaders inked an agreement at the Pakistani prime ministry after five days of negotiations, according to which interim Afghan President Borhannodin Rabbani will continue in his post for the next 18 months with Golboddin Hekmatyar of the Hezb-e Eslami-e serving as prime minister.

President Meets Burkinabe Foreign Minister

LD0603145193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Burkinabe Foreign Minister Thomas Sanou today. At the meeting, the president pointed out that the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to strengthening ties with African countries. He described the grounds for the expansion of cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Burkina Faso as suitable. He said: Iran and Burkina Faso can take effective steps to expand economic, technical, cultural, and training ties.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, Burkina Faso's foreign minister submitted a report on his meetings with our country's officials. He stated: The increase in trade between the two countries and the strengthening of existing relations will lead to ever closer friendship between our two peoples.

Majles Speaker Receives Sudanese Ambassador

LD0603172793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the Majles speaker, received the Sudanese ambassador in Tehran today. He praised the efforts of the Sudanese Government to implement Islamic shari'ah in that country and, referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's continued determination to help Sudan, he stressed the importance of expanding ties further. He said: Iran will do everything in its power to help Sudan.

The Sudanese ambassador, for his part, expressed the Sudanese Government's gratitude for the assistance offered by the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Sudan stand alongside one another and in one trench against a common enemy.

Pakistan

Afghan Peace Talks End in Signing of Agreement

Rabbani, Hekmatyar Comment

LD0503141993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Golboddin Hekmatyar and Borhanoddin Rabbani, whose differences have led to fighting over several months in Kabul, are optimistic about the peace talks among jihadi groups of Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar said yesterday: These talks provide the best opportunity for Afghan leaders to arrive at a solution to their differences. This [Islamic] party has tried during

the talks to accept suggestions that cater for the broad interests of Afghanistan. It hopes other leaders of Afghanistan will have the same attitude.

Stressing that thus far no agreement has been attained, Hekmatyar opposed the offer of two important posts to a single party and added: The only solution to the problems of Afghanistan is to form a government which will be accepted by all jihadi groups.

Borhanoddin Rabbani, the president of Afghanistan, said that the Islamic countries were paying attention to the talks by Afghans and said: We will not disappoint Islamic countries.

Rabbani Addresses Friday Prayers

BK0503143993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Addressing a juma [Friday prayer] congregation in Islamabad today, the Afghan president, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, said that fighting in Kabul will come to an end as a result of talks between various Afghan groups. He said Afghan leaders have finally decided to resolve their differences through dialogue. He lauded the role of government and people of Pakistan during Afghan jehad. He expressed confidence that Pakistan will continue through in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. President Rabbani said anti-Muslim forces are painting a negative picture of the events in Afghanistan in order to create misunderstanding and mistrust among the Afghans. Afghan people, he said, will frustrate evil designs and negative propaganda of anti-Islamic forces. He said every revolution is followed by problems and we are also passing through that stage. But, people of Afghanistan will, Inshallah [God willing], overcome these problems.

Special prayers were offered for the success of all Islamic movements going on in different parts of the world. Earlier, addressing a gathering of ulema, the Afghan president said sincere efforts are being made for the complete enforcement of Islamic system in Afghanistan. He said the formation of Shura Ahl-e Hal Wa Aqd [Council of Resolution and Settlement] is in fact the revival of an Islamic history. The Afghan president said the Afghan jehad which resulted in the fragmentation of a superpower was a new chapter in history. He said around half a million Afghans laid down their lives during 14-year-old jehad. Prof. Rabbani said the ulema of Pakistan played a great role in Afghan jehad.

Speaking on the occasion, member of National Assembly Maulana Mohammad Khan Shirani lauded the Afghan jehad. Afghan ministers, including Engineer Ahmad Shah, Najib Mohaddedi, and the governor of Herat, Mr. Esmail, were also present on the occasion.

Rabbani on Trial of Karmal, Najibollah

BK0603030293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Afghan President Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani has said that the former puppet presidents of Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal and Najibollah, will be prosecuted for war crimes. Talking to reporters in Islamabad yesterday, he said a decision to this effect was made by the Council of Resolution and Settlement.

Answering a question, he said the prospects for peace in Afghanistan are bright. The talks are continuing and Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar has been accepted in principle as the prime minister of Afghanistan. He said the dialogue will continue until a final agreement is reached. Stressing the need for unity in the Islamic world, the Afghan president said unity among the ranks of Muslim brethren will help in further strengthening Islamic power in the region.

Hekmatyar Interviewed by BBC

LD0503153693 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Brother Hekmatyar, the commander of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan, in an interview with a BBC radio correspondent has said: We are in the process of understanding and have not so far reached any results. Until an agreement has been fully prepared and signed, and an announcement made about it in the mass media, any sort of comment in this regard is wrong and baseless. I should say that these talks are direct face-to-face negotiations among the leaders of the groups. The appropriate conditions have been prepared by our Pakistani brothers.

We are in favor of an urgent solution of the issue so that a permanent and just peace may be established. As far as Hezb-e Eslami is concerned, it does not support war. The fighting has been imposed on us. Hezb-e Eslami seeks an urgent solution to the problem but so far only an understanding has been reached and we have not achieved any particular result.

We support a solution to the issue. Propaganda has been disseminated claiming that an agreement has been reached and the ministries have been allocated. All these reports are far from the truth.

In reply to another question about [passage indistinct] Brother Hekmatyar said: All these issues have been discussed as proposals. No agreement has been reached so far. Once an agreement is reached on all issues, then an official announcement will be made. I can only refer to these talks so far as talks in which it is proposed to reach understanding, to argue, and discuss issues. There is no agreement yet.

Brother Hekmatyar was asked what made him change his stance, after he said that he did not want to talk and negotiate with Rabbani as long as he is president, and

after he emphasized that elections should be held in less than a year. What made you change your stance he was asked. Brother Hekmatyar said that we emphasize and stress the importance of holding elections. We hope that all parties will agree to hold elections and that the elections will be held in less than a year. I am sure that all jehadi groups will accept this. The difference, in comparison to what our view was earlier, is the fact that before I said that whenever Ustad Rabbani agrees, by means of negotiation, to form an interim government and hold elections in less than a year, then we will be ready to negotiate. Now our conditions have been accepted and the negotiations are continuing in this direction.

Asked whether, if Hezb-e Eslami and Jamiat-e Eslami become united, they might form a government that would not pay any regard to other groups and other Afghans and that might take the form of dictatorship, Brother Hekmatyr said: These talks and negotiations have been reflected incorrectly. The talks in Islamabad are not between Hezb and Jamiat, but among all the jihadi groups. Our efforts and strivings are aimed at creating an interim government based on agreement among all jihadi groups.

Hekmatyar—Agreement Still Far

BK0503131093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 5 (AFP)—Rebel Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar said Friday that mojahedin factions were still far from an agreement on power sharing to end months of fighting in Afghanistan.

Contradicting Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who on Thursday said agreement was "very close" at peace talks in Islamabad, Hekmatyar called press reports on the subject "premature," saying that the factions were "very far from a concrete agreement" to bring peace to the country.

Sharif said that most factions had accepted a proposal allowing President Borhanoddin Rabbani to retain power for 18 months, with Hekmatyar as prime minister.

The Hezb-e Eslami leader, speaking to thousands at an Afghan refugee camp here, said he would only accept the post if it came with real power.

"There should be a balance between the president and the prime minister. The premier should have the power to form his government. Ministers should come under his authority," he said.

Hekmatyar stressed that Rabbani could not remain in power while his Jamiat-e Eslami party colleague, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, remains defence minister.

It would have to be one or the other, Hekmatyar said.

Hekmatyar Holds Peshawar News Conference

BK0503154293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar has expressed the hope that peace and stability in Afghanistan will be restored soon. He said this while addressing a mammoth public rally at Shamshattu Afghan refugee camp near Peshawar this afternoon. He said that armed clashes in Afghanistan will end soon because continued bloodshed will yield nothing. Hekmatyar said that he is hopeful about the formation of a strong central government in Kabul which will be acceptable to all sections of the Afghans. He ruled out the possibility of armed clashes on the issue of distribution of authorities in Afghanistan.

Later, Golboddin Hekmatyar also addressed a news conference in Peshawar. Addressing newsmen he said that he is optimistic about the outcome of the talks. In reply to a question, he said that Afghanistan will cooperate with all Islamic countries, especially the neighboring Islamic states, in overcoming the problems facing the Islamic world.

Hekmatyar Brought to Islamabad

BK0603114593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Peshawar—The difficulties which the Pakistan government is encountering in guiding the fractious Afghan Mojahedin leadership to reach a compromise were best explained here Friday afternoon when a helicopter was sent to the Shamshattu refugee camp near Peshawar to fetch Hezb-e Eslami Chief Gulboddin Hekmatyar to Islamabad before he abandoned the intra-Afghan dialogue and headed for Kabul.

On board the helicopter were Qazi Humayun of the Foreign Office and ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] chief Lt Gen Javed Nasir and some of his top sleuths. Jamaat-e Eslami leaders Shabbh Ahmad Khan and Hakim 'Abdol Waheed were also present in Shamshatoo, apparently to convey Qazi Hussain Ahmad's message asking Hekmatyar not to abandon the Pakistan sponsored peace talks in Islamabad.

Hekmatyar agreed to return to Islamabad, relieving Pakistan government officials who could have faced embarrassment if the Hezb-e Eslami leader had left for Afghanistan without agreeing to an accord. Ranging from the Prime Minister to the foreign secretary, Pakistan government has consistently claimed that an agreement between the warring Afghan groups had almost been clinched.

Unlike the overly optimistic Pakistan government officials, Hekmatyar again made it clear here Friday that an agreement has yet to be reached. "There can be no compromise on giving two major positions in the government to one party", he maintained while talking to

reporters in Shamshatoo. "The Jamiat-e-Eslami would have to choose between the presidency and the defence ministry", he explained.

It indeed is a difficult choice for President Rabbani, who fears becoming a figurehead president without his defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and in presence of a powerful Prime Minister from Hezb-e Eslami. The matter has become a stumbling block in the Intra-Afghan dialogue with most parties backing Hekmatyar's demand.

There were earlier reports that Mas'ud may fly to Peshawar to attend the funeral of his father Dost Mohammad, who died in a road accident near the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad Thursday. Mas'ud later sent a radio message expressing his inability to come and okaying the family's plans to bury the deceased in Peshawar.

The late Dost Mohammad had retired as a Brigadier in the Afghan army during ex-King Zahir Shah's rule and migrated to Pakistan after the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. He is survived by five sons, most famous of whom is Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Pakistan government was stated to have expressed its readiness to arrange Mas'ud's visit to Peshawar to attend the funeral. Mas'ud's presence could have afforded an opportunity to the Pakistani, Iranian and Saudi interlocutors to convince him to back the demands of the Islamabad talks, especially the demand that he step down as defence minister.

Another leading Jamiat-e Eslami commander Ismail Khan, now governor of Herat, is also visiting Pakistan. It is probably his first or second trip to Pakistan. In fact, both Mas'ud and Ismail rarely visited Pakistan during the Afghan Jehad. Ismail has already announced his full backing for President Rabbani's stance in the Islamabad talks.

Amidst reports of received clashes in and around Kakbul. Hekmatyar Friday pointed out that he ought to be in his Charasyab headquarters if fighting flared up again. He thus explained his determination to pursue his goals, much in the same way as Mas'ud who has talked of a decisive round of battle if the latest peace initiative fails.

That also explains Islamabad's urgency in concluding the Islamabad parleys on a successful note so that the mindless blood-letting in Kabul doesn't start all over again.

Mojaddedi Rejects Rabbani Presidency

LD0503162793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Our country's ambassador to Pakistan met with Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, leader of Afghanistan's National Liberation Front, in Islamabad today. According to a Central News Unit report, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi rejected the Islamabad plan on the basis of which the presidency of Borhanoddin Rabbani will continue for a further 18 months and said: The Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami] and the Northern National-Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, led by General Dostum, as well as Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami], oppose the said plan.

Our country's ambassador also elaborated on the Islamic Republic of Iran's stances vis-a-vis Afghanistan and said: The problem of Afghanistan will be solved when all Afghan parties and groups share power and an all-encompassing power comes to force in Afghanistan.

Rabbani Arrives in Peshawar

BK0603153493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Afghan President Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, currently on an official visit to Pakistan, arrived in Peshawar today. He was received by Northwest Frontier Province Governor Amir Gulistan Janjua and senior provincial officials at the airport. Later, President Borhanoddin Rabbani called on the governor in Peshawar and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest.

Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, said that barring some minor issues, the Afghan peace negotiations have reached the stage of an agreement. He was talking to a delegation in Islamabad today.

Iran's Borujerdi Meets Official

LD0603172193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Iran and Pakistan will continue their efforts to bring the viewpoints of Afghan jihad groups closer together on issues that separate them.

According to a report by the Central News Unit from Islamabad, this morning Mr. Borujerdi, head of our country's delegation, met with Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Shahryar Khan this morning on the sidelines of the talks held between Afghan jehad groups which have been going on for five days in the Pakistani capital Islamabad. Iran and Pakistan are mediating in the talks and the two sides exchanged views on the problems which occurred in those talks.

Mr. Borujerdi noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation is in close and constant contact with the leaders of various Afghan groups and said: We will not spare any effort to solve the remaining problems and hope that all our efforts open a new page in the relations among various groups and that peace and tranquillity will replace insecurity and war in Afghanistan. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned about a new wave of unrest in Kabul.

Agreement Reached 7 Mar

NC0703090693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and the mojahedin leaders of that country reached a new consensus after 10 hours of discussions. Our correspondent reports from Islamabad on the details of the latest round of talks:

[Begin recording] The leaders and representatives of the Afghan mojahedin groups, who are in the Pakistani capital to minimize the deep differences among these groups and to find ways and means to establish a permanent cease-fire in Afghanistan, reached a final consensus on the sixth day of their talks by eliminating all impediments to peace.

On the sixth day of talks, which began at 1700 yesterday and ended at 0400, the Afghan leaders specified a framework of various articles on the nation's political structure. On the basis of this structure, Rabbani will remain as president for 18 months, two of which have already been completed, and Golboddin Hekmatyar, the leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, or his representative will be prime minister.

The agreement abolishes the Defense Ministry, the main obstacle in the past three days of talks, and follows Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami's suggestion that it be administered as a council.

It has also been decided that the new Afghan cabinet will be introduced within two weeks after consultations between the president and the groups. As part of the decisions reached, parliamentary elections will be held on the establishment of the Afghan national majles. These elections will be convened in the next six months and the elected majles will approve laws for national general elections.

The jehadi Afghan groups agreed to an immediate cease-fire, the unconditional release of all prisoners, the opening of all routes, free traffic, the establishment of a commission to distribute fuel and foodstuffs, and the removal of heavy weapons from the Afghan capital to a location from where Kabul would be out of range.

The two sides agreed that areas wrested from one another in the Kabul conflict should be returned. The draft, which has been formulated for the past few days, expresses appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia, which have sent special delegations to Islamabad to participate in the talks, for their effective and positive efforts in bringing the views of Afghan President Rabbani and his opposing factions closer.

According to the latest agreement, the accord will be signed today and the participants in these talks hope to go to the House of God today or tomorrow, to express their gratitude about the accord.

It is worth mentioning that the Islamic Republic of Iran's special delegation, led by Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, carried out extensive mediation in the six-day talks in Islamabad, holding meetings with the Pakistani president and prime minister and 20 meetings with Pakistani Foreign Ministry officials and Afghan leaders. [end recording]

Afghan President Rabbanihad expressed his optimism to correspondents during a meeting in Peshawar, Pakistan, prior to the final accord. He said he was certain the Islamabad talks would culminate in answering the wishes of the Afghan people.

The president said: The participation of the leaders of the prominent Afghan groups in these talks indicates their inclination to resolve the country's crisis by means of political negotiations.

Regarding the opposition of some groups to the resolution and settlement council and its decision to allow him a a two-year [as heard] presidential term, Rabbani said: In this council, representatives from all sections of Afghan society were present. Any opposition to this council should have been voiced before it was convened.

He added that he was willing to resolve these differences by political means. Rabbani told correspondents that Kabul considers the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia friendly and fraternal countries and expresses appreciation for the efforts of the heads of these countries to establish security in war-ridden Afghanistan.

Rabbani Makes Concessions

BK0703064893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0644 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 7 (AFP)—Rival Afghan factions, after a marathon session of talks early Sunday, agreed to a peace formula for Afghanistan, mojahedin sources said.

They said President Borhanoddin Rabbani had agreed to surrender his hold on the powerful defence ministry and would work with his bitter rival, dissident leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, as prime minister.

The powerful defence ministry would be abolished, the sources said, and replaced by a multi-party defence council.

Rabbani's loyal ally Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the defence minister, will not head the new council, the sources close to the week-long talks said. It was not immediately clear what role, if any, Mas'ud would assume in the new administration.

The Afghan leaders agreed to appoint dissident Hekmatyar as prime minister and allow Rabbani to continue as president for 18 months, they added.

During the talks, Hekmatyar had staunchly opposed Rabbani's Jamiat-e Eslami holding two portfolios—the presidency and the defence ministry—in the new government.

Sources said Rabbani agreed to the demand "reluctantly" after other leaders expressed disappointment that the talks were on the verge of collapse.

Under the accord to be formally signed around noon (0730 GMT), the rival groups would also work to permanently end hostilities after months of bloodletting that had claimed thousands of lives since the ouster of pro-Moscow regime of president Najibollah in April.

The sources said the opposing groups have also decided to release prisoners of rival parties and reopen the roads and highways closed due to factional fighting.

The accord was reached after a marathon 12 hour session which started late Saturday and continued until dawn, officials said.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who supervised the peace negotiations in coordination with special envoys from Saudi Arabia and Iran, is to address a press conference after the scheduled signing, he added.

Rabbani Thanks Mediators

LD0703164393 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 7, IRNA—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani in Peshawar Saturday appreciated the help by Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia for returning peace and stability to Afghanistan.

He said he was optimistic about the outcome of the current talks by Afghan leaders in Islamabad on the future of Afghanistan. Rabbani added that he felt a future agreement between the Jami'at-e Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party Association), and Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party) of Golboddin Hekmatyar would be respected by all Jehadi groups in Afghanistan.

The Afghan president commented that persistent objection by Hekmatyar and other leaders of Jehadi parties to the occupation of the presidential post and that of the Defense Ministry would only imply that over the past 14 years the struggling groups had been fighting by way of jogging for position.

Asked to comment on the objection of certain groups to the Hal-o-'Aqd (Settlement) Council and its decision to set a two-year presidential term for him, he said that he was ready and willing to settle those discrepancies through political means.

Iranian, Saudi Officials Meet

LD0703132793 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 7, IRNA—Iran and Saudi Arabia here Saturday exchanged views over recent developments in the region as well as on the ongoing Islamabad peace talks.

Iran's deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi and Saudi Arabia's intelligence chief and King Fahd's special envoy to the talks Prince Turki al-Faysal also discussed issues of mutual interest.

Expressing satisfaction over the upward trend of the promotion of Riyadh-Tehran ties, al-Faysal said that recent achievement in OPEC was an outcome of close cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Membership of both the countries in such organizations as the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] and OPEC would prepare appropriate grounds for the expansion of bilateral relations, he added.

The Saudi official hoped that peace and tranquility would soon replace war and unrest in Afghanistan.

On the miserable condition of the Bosnian Muslims, he noted that not only the Muslim world but also the whole human community should take serious steps to put an end to the crimes of Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Meanwhile, Borujerdi briefed the Saudi official on Iran's policy of upgrading ties with the Persian Gulf Arab states, underlining the need to strengthen cooperation among regional states to stabilize peace in the region.

On Afghanistan issue, he said that fanning the flames of religious discords was among other dangers threatening the Afghan society.

Borujerdi also held separate talks with Ayatollah Fazel, a member of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami Central Council, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, leader of the Afghanistan National Front and Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, and discussed latest developments in peace talks.

During the talks, it was hoped that achievement of a consensus among all parties would return peace to Afghanistan.

Hezb-e Wahdat Leader Comments

LD0703122493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Islamabad conducted an interview about the Islamabad talks with Ayatollah Fazel, the Hezb-e Wahdat representative at the talks, before the signing of the Afghan peace agreement. Let me draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Fazel, you are one of the leaders of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami; you took part in the recent talks among Afghan leaders. I would like to ask you about your views and also about the outcome of the talks.

[Fazel] Yes. We came here in order to find a fundamental solution to Afghanistan's problems and all the officials of the Hezb-e Wahdat are hoping for such an outcome. As to the topics of discussion and the results of the recent talks, it does not look too bad; there has been some measure of progress and agreement has been reached on the general framework of all the issues. Things are looking hopeful so far, God willing.

[Correspondent] It is being said that in the recent agreements it is stipulated that the Afghan Defense Ministry, which has always been in dispute, is to be run by a council. Could you please tell us your views about this?

[Fazel] Yes. The intention was to solve this problem. This was the source of a major dispute between the Jam'iyat, on the one hand, and the Hezb-e Eslami and the Hezb-e Wahdat Eslami, on the other hand. Proposals were made in this regard. The Hezb-e Wahdat's proposal, made by me as the party's representative, was to run the Defense Ministry by means of a council. A general agreement has been reached on this issue. A defense council is to be set up and it is to be in charge of the Defense Ministry's main responsibilities.

[Correspondent] It is being said that one of the agreements reached in the talks was that the parties involved should withdraw from the positions which they captured earlier. Can you tell us anything about this?

[Fazel] It is as you say. This issue was also discussed. Areas which were captured by the different sides through fighting must be returned to their proper owners. This relates to residential areas.

[Correspondent] Mr. Fazel, my last question is about the way in which the cabinet is to be selected. It seems that this task is to be undertaken by Golboddin Hekmatyar, the leader of the Hezb-e Eslami. Has it been decided how this is to be done and which groups are to be represented?

[Fazel] The selection, the presentation of the members of the cabinet is naturally the responsibility of the prime minister and he must also consult and take into account the views of the head of government [as heard], as well as the views of the different groups and the jehadi political parties. Naturally, representatives will be selected from the groups, in proportion to the situation of the groups, possibly. This issue has also been discussed; that is to say, if a group is large, more members will be selected from it than from a smaller group.

[Correspondent] Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Fazel. [end recording]

Further on Accord, Cease-Fire

BK0703143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Afghan leaders signed a peace accord in Islamabad today. The accord signed after six days of hectic negotiations, which continued till late last night, says all the parties and groups have agreed on the formation of a government for a period of 18 months, in which President Borhanoddin Rabbani will remain president and Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar or his nominee would assume the office of prime minister.

The leaders have agreed on an immediate cease-fire and formation of a cabinet within two weeks. A defense council is being set up for the formation of a national army and to take possession of heavy weapons from all parties. The historic accord was signed at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad this afternoon. Those who signed the historic document were Ayatollah Fazil of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani of Mahaz-e Meli, Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi of Jabha-e Nejat-e Meli, Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani of Jami'at-e Eslami, Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar of Hezb-e Eslami, Sheikh Asef Mohseni of Harakat-e Eslami, and Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmad Zai of Etehad-e Eslami. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, who played a central role during the long—and at times nerve-shattering—discussions, was present at the accord signing ceremony.

The accord envisages a government to be formed for 18 months, in which the president, Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, would remain president and Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar or his nominee would assume the office of prime minister. The cabinet shall be formed by the prime minister in consulation with the president and leaders of mojahedin parties within two weeks from today. An electoral process has already been agreed which is to be implemented in 18 months starting from 29 December 1992. An election commission will immediately be formed, which shall have the mandate to hold elections for the grand constituent assembly within eight months. The assembly shall formulate a constitution under which general elections for the president and parliament shall be held. A defense council comprising two members from each party will be set up, which will help form a national army, take possession of heavy weapons from all parties and forces and keep them out of range of Kabul to ensure the security of the capital. The council shall also ensure that all roads in Afghanistan are kept open for normal use, state funds are not used to finance private armies, and control the armed forces' operation. All Afghan detainees held by the government and different parties during the armed hostilities shall be immediately released. All public and private buildings occupied by different armed groups during the hostilities shall be returned to their original owners.

The accord made a special mention of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's constructive role in reaching agreement and appreciated his efforts to promote peace and conciliation in Afghanistan. A joint commission comprising representatives of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] and all Afghan parties shall be formed to monitor the cease-fire and cessation of hostilities. Saudi King Fahd's call to resolve the differences among Afghans through peaceful dialogue was also lauded. Thanks were extended to the Governments of Saudi Arabia and Iran for sending their envoys to the peace talks.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the accord is a tribute to the commitment of achieving the goals of jehad in Afghanistan. He was addressing a news conference soon after the signing of the accord at the prime minister's house today.

[Begin Sharif recording] This historic agreement has been achieved in Islamabad after six days of intensive negotiations between our Afghan brothers. I am extremely thankful to the Afghan leaders for their showing of constructive and positive approach and mutual understanding that has led to the signing of the agreement. In doing so, they will bring rejoicing and happiness to the brave people of Afghanistan, who have suffered gravely because of the fighting in Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan will now return to their homes and begin the reconstruction of their great country. Pakistan has been part of the glorious Afghan jehad and now joins the valiant Afghan people in seeking unity, progress, and prosperity among the Afghan people. We pray that as a result of this agreement there will now be harmony, peace, and understanding. The peace accord is a tribute to the leadership of Afghanistan who have all wished mutual accommodation. It is now up to the Afghan leadership and people to ensure that the accord is implemented in letter and spirit. As we are talking of peace and harmony, I would urge all Afghan brothers to forgive and forget all their differences and in this Islamic spirit, I urge the release of all prisoners that were taken during glorious jehad. [end recording]

Afghan leaders have expressed the hope that complete peace and harmony will prevail in the war-torn Afghanistan as a result of the peace accord. Giving their impressions about the accord, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar and Afghan President Mr. Borhanoddin Rabbani said:

[Begin recording] [Rabbani in Pashto fading into English translation] We are hopeful that we will achieve positive results.

[Hekmatyar in Pashto fading in English translation] This accord, we are pleased that it was possible, and we welcome it. We are happy to reach such a conclusion and to sign such an accord. [end recordng]

The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has described the Afghan peace accord signed in Islamabad today as a historic document signifying the starting point of Afghanistan's second jehad for restoration of peace, return of tranquillity, reconstruction of the country, and rehabilitation of its economy. He was talking to Afghan leaders who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [president's house] today after signing the accord to thank him for the help and assistance extended by Pakistan and the personal interest taken and guidance provided by the president. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was present on the occasion. Earlier, the prime minister had a separate meeting with the president to brief him about various aspects of the accord as finally signed. The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, was present.

At his meeting with the Afghan leaders, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, said the agreement symbolizes the victory of sanity, of understanding and accommodation, and of the traditional Afghan wisdom. He, however, pointed out that the agreement was only a means to achieve the ultimate objective and that objective can only be achieved if they will implement the accord in the same spirit of understanding, accommodation, and cooperation as went into its evolution. The president urged the Afghan leaders to let the world see that the victorious warriors of the first jehad are equally good fighters when it comes to meeting the challenge of rebuilding their country from the rubble of war. The president said Pakistan never wished to impose a solution and only wanted to help its Afghan brothers overcome their problems. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan assured the Afghan leadership of all possible support and assistance to restore peace in Afghanistan and rebuild the war-ravaged country into a truly Islamic state and peace with itself and at peace with outside world.

Afghan Radio Reports Peace Accord

LD0703171893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] An accord was signed in Islamabad at 1300 today between the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the jehadi organizations on ending the conflict and on the participation of all jehadi parties in the Islamic State.

Present at the talks to sign the agreement between the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the jehadi parties were esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; esteemed Engineeer Golboddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Hezb-e Eslami; Esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, leader of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami; esteemed Sebghatollah Mojadeddi, leader of the National Front; esteemed Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni, leader of Harakat-e Eslami; esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmad Zai, deputy leader of Etehad-e Eslami; esteemed Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani,leader of the National Islamic Front; and esteemed Ayatollah Fazel of Wahdat-e Eslami.

Esteemed Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan; estemmed Turki al-Faysal, representative of Saudi Arabia; and esteemed Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister of Iran, were also present at the talks.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Islamabad that the agreement [words indistinct] was signed. It has been decided that the members of cabinet will be appointed in one or two weeks. The signing of this agreement is an auspicious message to all mojahedin and all those who are thirsty for the cessation of war.

Pakistani Leaders Comment

BK0803023493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] All Afghan leaders who have signed the peace agreement will leave Islamabad for Saudi Arabia today. The Pakistan prime minister will accompany the Afghan delegation. The invitation for the visit has been extended by the custodian of the holy shrine, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

National leaders, including politicians, religious scholars, and prominent citizens, have welcomed the historic Afghan peace agreement and commended the untiring efforts of the prime minister to reach this agreement. They have described the agreement as very auspicious for the entire Muslim community, especially for the Afghan brothers. Awami National Party's Khan Abdul Wali Khan has said the agreement will help establish peace in Afghanistan which is imperative for the progress of the country. Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad has said that the agreement reached between the Afghan mojahedin leaders will usher in an era of peace and prosperity in the region. Describing the agreement as a historic achievement, Federal Information Minister Abdul Sattar Lalika said the agreement is a result of the untiring efforts of the prime minister. He said the restoration of peace in Afghanistan will usher in a new era of peace and prosperity there, which will have a positive impact on the region's peace and stability. Federal Ministers Chaudhary Shujat Hussain and Sardar Yaqub Khan Nasir have also welcomed the agreement. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan has congratulated Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and the Afghan leadership for the successful conclusion of the week-long negotiations. Other leaders, religious scholars, and prominent citizens have also welcomed the Afghan peace accord.

Afghan Groups Meet in Iranian Embassy

NC0803073993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Afghanistan's jehad leaders who participated in the talks to solve differences held their first session last night at the Iranian Embassy in Islamabad to follow up on the contents of the agreement that has been signed. Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Eslami, chaired the session in the presence of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, Ayatollah Fazel, Seyyed Ahmad Geylani, Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, 'Asef Mohseni, and representatives of Yunes Khales' Hezb-e Eslami.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, the delegates discussed ways to implement the peace plan.

Last night's session chose the members of the five-man military, election, financial, bank supervision, foodstuffs distribution, and cease-fire monitoring commissions. [passage omitted]

After last night's embassy session involving the leaders of the Afghan groups, Deputy Foreign Minister Borujerdi spoke to correspondents, describing the meeting of Afghan jehad leaders and the signing of the peace pact as valuable.

He said that among the accord's noteworthy points is the agreement reached between the two major Jami'at-e Eslami and Hezb-e Eslami groups and their close cooperation. Borujerdi said the rapid implementation of the contents of the accord is an important point that the Afghan jehad leaders should heed. He said the groups should show flexibility in implementing the accord. He added that there is general optimism over the implementation of the accord, although the conferring sides do express some concerns in their discussions.

Rabbani, Hekmatyar Interviewed

NC0803081593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Mar 93

["Exclusive" interviews with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, in Islamabad by Central News Unit correspondent Khameneh on 7 March—recorded]

[Text] [Khameneh] Mr. Rabbani, how do you assess the accord reached today among the Afghan jehad leaders?

[Rabbani] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. We believe that today's accord is an effective step toward ensuring peace and (?stability) in our country and we are confident that its implementation will overcome many of the problems our nation faces.

[Khameneh] Is there an article in the accord on the composition of the cabinet?

[Rabbani] There is no such specific article. The accord states only that the cabinet will be formed by the prime minister in consultation with the president and leaders of the other political groups and will be [words indistinct].

[Khameneh] Will the same apply to the assigning of important government posts?

[Rabbani] There is no specific article in the accord on the distribution of important government posts. Everything will stem from understanding among the parties and groups and between the prime minister and president.

[Khameneh] How will the Defense Ministry post that Your Excellency stressed be discussed?

[Rabbani] This issue is still in (?its initial) stage. Although, under the current conditions, we will accept whoever is assigned to the Defense Ministry, which is a major responsibility, we do believe that the best person for the job is Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

[Khameneh] Do the other leaders agree?

[Rabbani] Of course (?many) [words indistinct] believe this, but there are also other specific views.

[Khameneh] Was the transformation of this ministry into a council discussed?

[Rabbani] No. There is no such issue. The formation of a commission to help toward the cease-fire, a commission in which representatives of groups will participate to form an Islamic army, has been foreseen [words indistinct]. Until now there have not been many [word indistinct] on this.

[Khameneh] I thank you for your time.

[Khameneh] Mr. Hekmatyar, thank you for accepting our invitation. What are your views on the outcome of the talks that went on for about seven days in Islamabad?

[Hekmatyar] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. Thank God, we have reached a good accord. I am satisfied with and confident about the outcome of the talks. Reaching agreement is a success in itself. If we can implement all the articles of the accord as soon as possible, I believe that all of Afghanistan's problems will be solved. We want the problems to be overcome, the war to end forever, lasting peace in Afghanistan, a [word indistinct] Islamic government to run the country to the benefit of the people, and [word indistinct] Islam and an Islamic society.

[Khameneh] With the signing of this accord, when should we expect a cease-fire in Afghanistan?

[Hekmatyar] We have set two phases for a cease-fire. An immediate, temporary cease-fire will begin with the signing of the accord. Within two weeks the cabinet should be formed. Then a permanent cease-fire will be established.

[Khameneh] You referred to the cabinet. What is your view on the formula put forward in the accord on its formation and on the post of prime minister being given to the Hezb-e Eslami. Will Your Excellency assume this post?

[Hekmatyar] No official [word indistinct] has been announced. We will make decisions in view of conditions. The prime minister will form the Cabinet through agreement with the other leaders and through consultations with the president. The cabinet's formation is (?a duty) of the prime minister.

[Khameneh] Within two weeks?

[Hekmatyar] Yes. The Cabinet should be formed within two weeks.

[Khameneh] What is your opinion on the position of the Defense Ministry, which the leaders discussed for two or three days? Is what is stated in the accord in line with the views of the six jehad groups?

[Hekmatyar] The signing of the accord has solved the problem of the Defense Ministry, which, like other ministries, concerns the Cabinet and is part of the Cabinet and should naturally be decided by the prime minister. So I think that the signing of the accord solves the problem of the Defense Ministry, like that of the other ministries.

[Khameneh] I glean from your remarks that the prime minister will have the authority to assign a defense minister and that this ministry's transformation into a council is an issue that no longer exists.

[Hekmatyar] That is so. This is no longer an issue, for now. It was agreed that until the cabinet is formed, a military commission will supervise the Defense Ministry and Army units and [words indistinct] will be carried out by this joint commission. Until the Cabinet is formed, this military commission will supervise the (?Army's administration). Once the Cabinet is formed and the Defense Ministry assigned, the commission's work will end.

[Khameneh] I thank you again for granting us this interview.

[Hekmatyar] You are welcome.

Hekmatyar Nominated for Premiership

BK0803093893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0857 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 8 (AFP)—The Hezb-e Eslami, one of the most powerful parties in Afghanistan, nominated its chief Golboddin Hekmatyar on Monday to assume the premiership under the Afghan peace accord, a Hezb spokesman said.

The party's executive committee made the decision during a meeting here a day after Afghan mojahedin factions signed the accord which gave premiership to Hekmatyar or his nominee, spokesman Mangal Hussain said.

The 44-year-old leader of the Hezb, a Pashtun-dominated party, chaired the meeting at the party's office in Islamabad.

Hekmatyar is to form a cabinet in two weeks in consultations with leaders of other factions and Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, who continues in office for 18 months under the accord.

Another prominent Hezb leader, Nawab Salim, said Afghan mojahedin leaders should play a "vital role" in the next government in order to create a strong administration in the country.

The accord envisages a defense council comprising two members from each faction to exercise operational control over the armed forces and take steps to raise a national army.

Before signing the agreement, Hekmatyar reiterated his stand that no party could hold two major positions in the government, which indicated that Rabbani's ally Ahmad Shah Mas'ud could not be retained as defence minister.

It was not clear what role Mas'ud might have in the future government.

The accord also left unanswered the question of any share in government for Uzbek militia General Abdol Rashid Dostam or his Jumbish Milli group, which he had been demanding.

Under the agreement, an independent election commission is to be established immediately to hold elections for a constituent assembly which would be responsible for formulating a constitution. The accord also calls for elections to be organized within 18 months.

Rabbani, Hekmatyar, and six other signatories to the accord left Islamabad on a special flight Monday for Medina, Saudi Arabia, accompanied by Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The group is to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, then travel on to Riyadh for a meeting with Saudi King Fahd.

Saudi Arabia played a major role during the peace negotiations with special envoy Prince Turki al-Faysal and an accompanying delegation participating in the signing ceremony Sunday.

Islamic Unity Officials Interviewed

LD0803144593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Interview with Ayatollah Mohammad Hassan Fazel and Mohammad Karim Khalili, members of the Central Council of Afghanistan's Islamic Unity Party, by unidentified correspondent in Islamabad; date not given—live or recrorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Fazel, what is the Islamic Unity Party's viewpoint regarding the peace agreement signed among the heads of the Afghan jehadi groups, and do you regard the clauses stipulated in the agreement sufficient for ending the clashes?

[Fazel] The Islamic Unity Party's viewpoint on the issues discussed, and on which an agreement has been signed, is favorable. But on the whole, the agreement will only be viable if there is effort, honesty, and sincerity on the part of those who signed the agreement. The issues that have been stipulated in the agreement are often general. They have not yet had the time to discuss the details, and those details must be discussed in the future. The only detail on which they have remarked concerns the posts of the head of the government and the prime minister, on both of which unanimous agreement has been reached. The remaining issue concerns the cabinet, the members of which must be elected, and posts that should be allocated to each participating group in relation to its size and the capability of its individuals. This is an issue that has not yet been discussed but may be placed on the top of the agenda after visits to Saudi Arabia and Iran. And, God willing, they will reach a final and complete agreement.

[Correspondent] Mr. Khalili, one of the important issues that was discussed during the negotiations concerned the Defense Ministry. In view of the signed agreement, which places emphasis on the need to form a commission or a defense council within two weeks, should Mr. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud give up his post after that period?

[Khalili] The formula was that each group should hold only one important position, which was why the discussion had led to the subject of the present Defense Ministry. The majority of groups believed that if the position of the presidency goes to the Islamic Society [Jam'iat-e Eslami], then that of the Defense Ministry must naturally be allocated to another group. Mr. Rabbani faced a problem in that regard and ultimately had the option of accepting either the presidency or the Defense Ministry. After lengthy discussions, Mr. Rabbani withdrew his insistance on the continuation of Mr. Mas'ud in office and agreed to the allocation of the Defense Ministry position to another group. But that took some time.

[Correspondent] Mr. Fazel, has there been any discussion so far as to whom or which group the position of defense minister should be allocated, and I ask you the same question with regard to other ministry positions?

[Fazel] There was supposed to have been a discussion, but because the session had become too lengthy and because we cannot spend too much time outside the country and must go back—clashes, which often become very violent, are continuing in Kabul—we deemed it expedient to form the cabinet inside the country.

[Correspondent] Do you not jeopardize the peace agreement by excluding Mas'ud?

[Khalili] Mr. Mas'ud should not try to hold on to power. That would not be in Afghanistan's interest. What is clear is that the allocation of the two important positions of the president and the defense minister to the Islamic Society is unacceptable to all groups. And if Ahmad Shah Mas'ud insists on remaining in his post as the defense minister, it will mean the continuation of war and

clashes. If he supports peace and tranquillity, he must stop emphasizing this issue and he must honor the present agreement and order his forces to abide by it.

Iranian Embassy Hails Agreement

LD0803122593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Pakistan issued a statement today conveying its congratulations to all jehadi groups and the Muslim nation of Afghanistan for the resolution of their differences and the attainment of a comprehensive understanding. It expressed the hope that the agreement which has been achieved will bring an end to all the disputes in Afghanistan.

The statement also expressed hope that, in view of the agreement signed by Afghanistan's jehadi groups, from now on, we will see an Islamic, independent, and united Afghanistan.

Mojahedin Leader Criticizes Accord

BK0803123793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1218 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 8 (AFP)—A Mojahedin leader whose party boycotted the Afghan peace talks criticised Monday the accord signed in Islamabad by eight factions as ambiguous and smelling "of blood".

Yunes Khales, who opposed the presence of Shiite factions at the negotiations in Islamabad, said he would nonetheless assist peace efforts and raise no objections to the accord provided it was implemented according to Islamic principles and communists excluded from power.

"The accord smells of blood to me," said Khales, chief of his own faction of Afghan Hezb-e Eslami, in a statement carried by the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) agency. His comments came shortly after cease-fire celebrations in Kabul were marred by renewed rocket fire which left three dead.

The accord initialled here Sunday after week-long negotiations retains Borhanoddin Rabbani as president for 18 months while Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar is to assume premiership.

Hekmatyar is required to form a cabinet in two weeks in consultations with Rabbani and chiefs of various Afghan factions.

Speaking at Islamabad Airport Monday, before travelling to Saudi Arabia with the other Afghan leaders and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Hekmatyar said the cease-fire would not formally come into effect until a commission to monitor violations was set up, as envisaged by the accord.

The commission, he added, would comprise of representatives of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, a Pakistan representative and members of all the factions.

AIP quoted Khales, with whom it has links, as saying the accord contained ambiguities and that Hekmatyar and Rabbani had already started making contradictory statements about the defence portfolio.

The accord does not say whether current defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, an ally of Rabbani, would be retained or given any other role in the future government.

Sharif, Afghans Leave for Saudi Arabia

BK0803120893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif along with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and other Afghan leaders left Islamabad this evening for Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. They will perform a minor pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia and hold talks with the custodian of the two holy shrines. A number of federal ministers, the president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and the chief minister of Punjab are also accompanying the prime minister.

Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs, in a brief chat with newsmen before the departure said we are going on a trip to the holy land along with our Afghan brethren after the signing of the historic agreement which brought the Afghan crisis and dispute to an end. He said our visit to Saudi Arabia is also important because of the fact that the Afghan people will start the second stage of their holy war with the reconstruction of their motherland. In reply to a question, the minister of state said Pakistan will extend every possible assistance to the Afghan brethren in their reconstruction work.

Afghan prime minister-designate Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, speaking on the occasion, said we intend to implement the Islamabad peace agreement and are sincere in this regard. He made it clear that no one is now against the new agreement as it enjoys the support of the majority of the Afghan people and political groups.